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(54) **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR COOPERATIVE DIAGNOSIS OF IMPAIRMENTS AND MITIGATION OF DISTURBERS IN COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS**

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(51) **Int. Cl.**⁷ **H04M 1/76**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **379/417; 379/399.01; 379/414; 375/254; 375/346**

(58) **Field of Search** **375/254, 346; 379/93.01, 93.05, 399.01, 417, 414**

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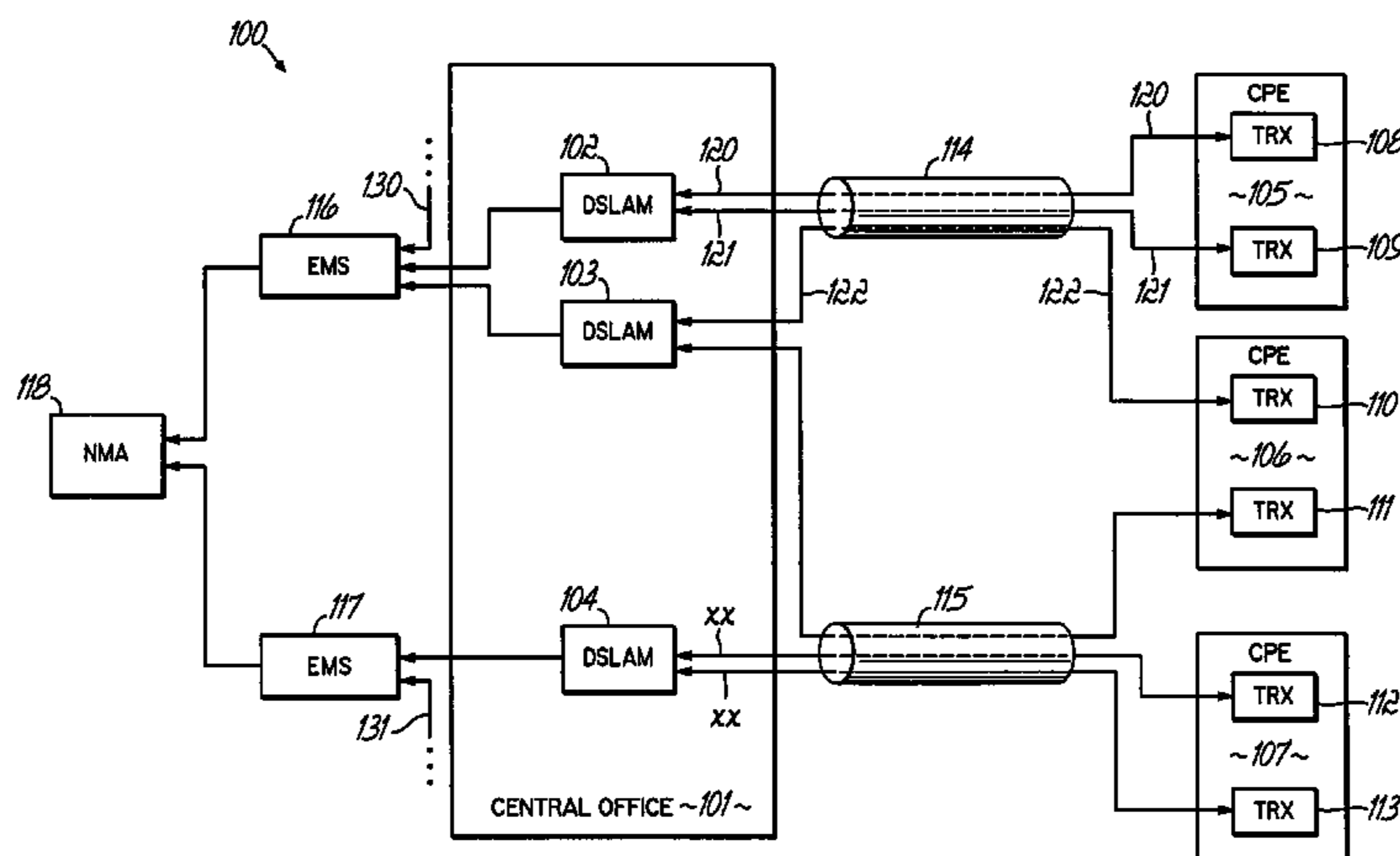
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method that sends upstream a collection of data samples measured from a DSL line.

28 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets



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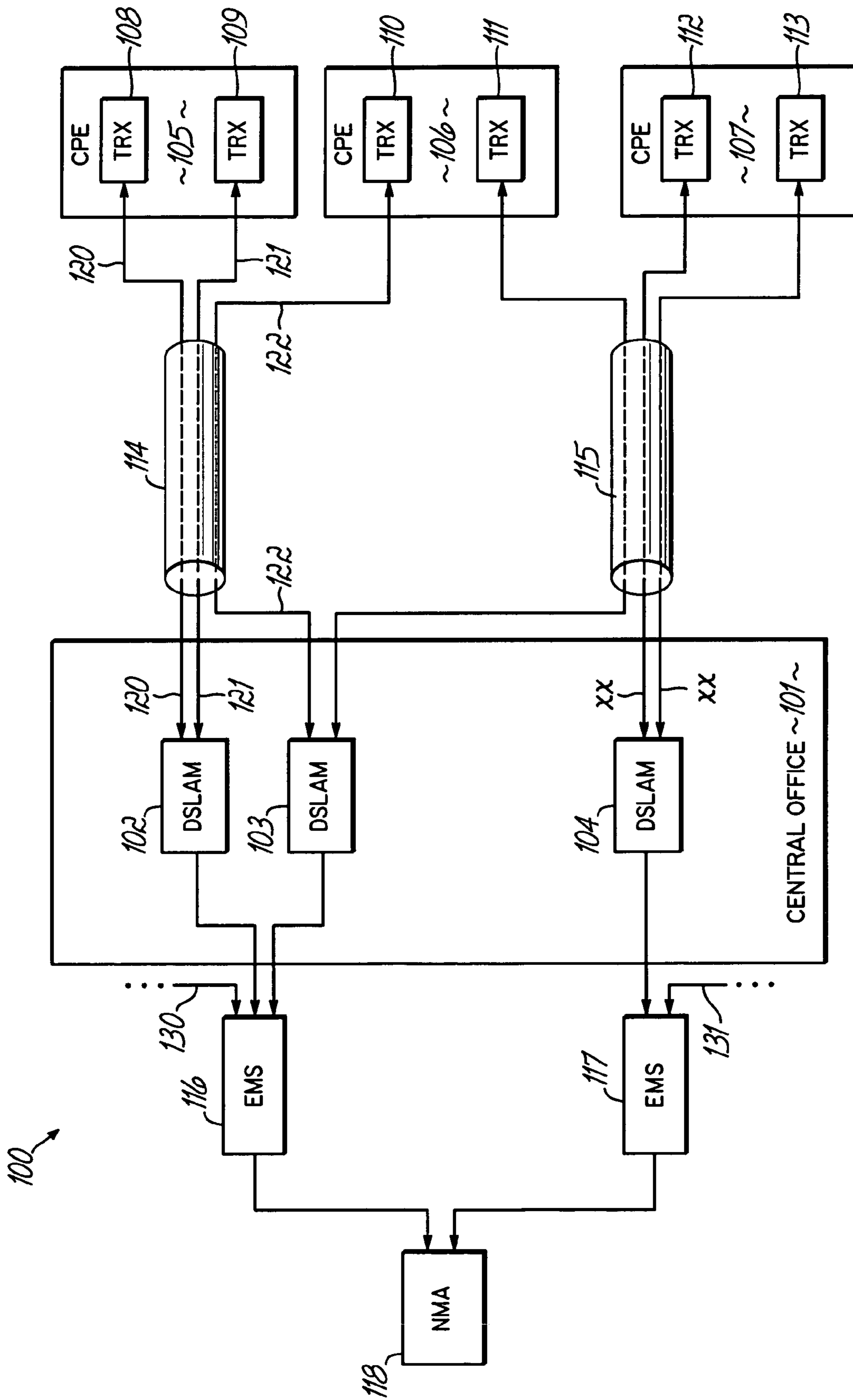


FIG. 1

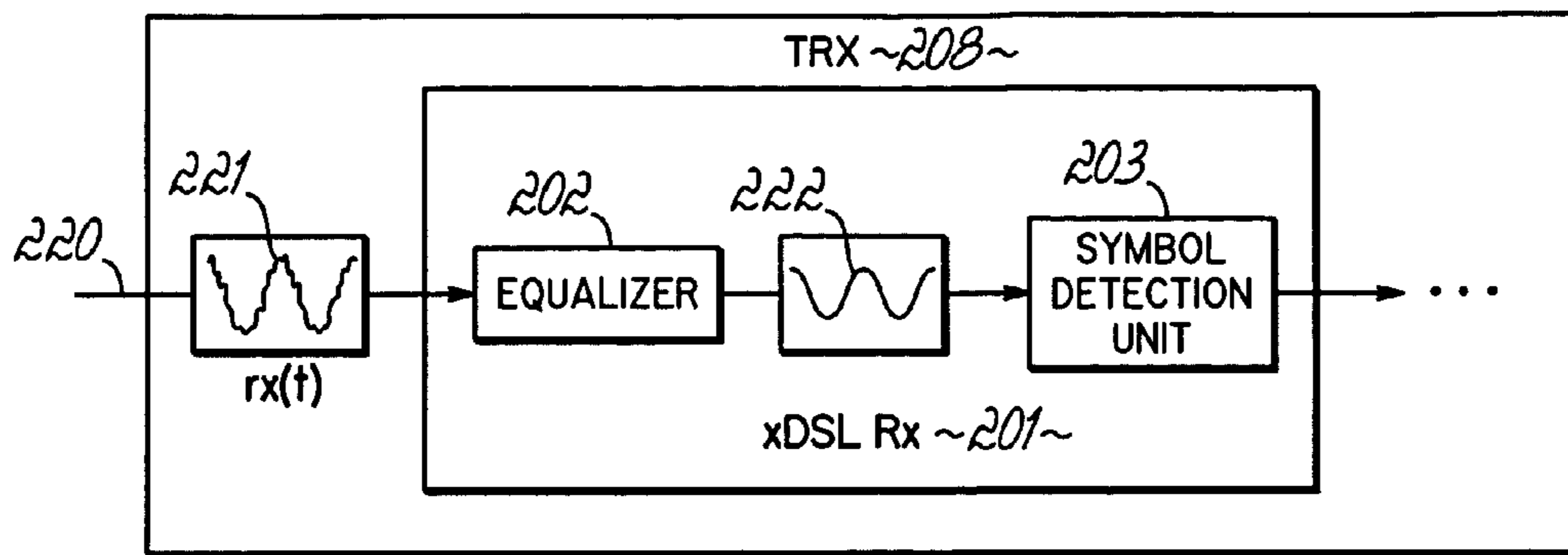


FIG. 2

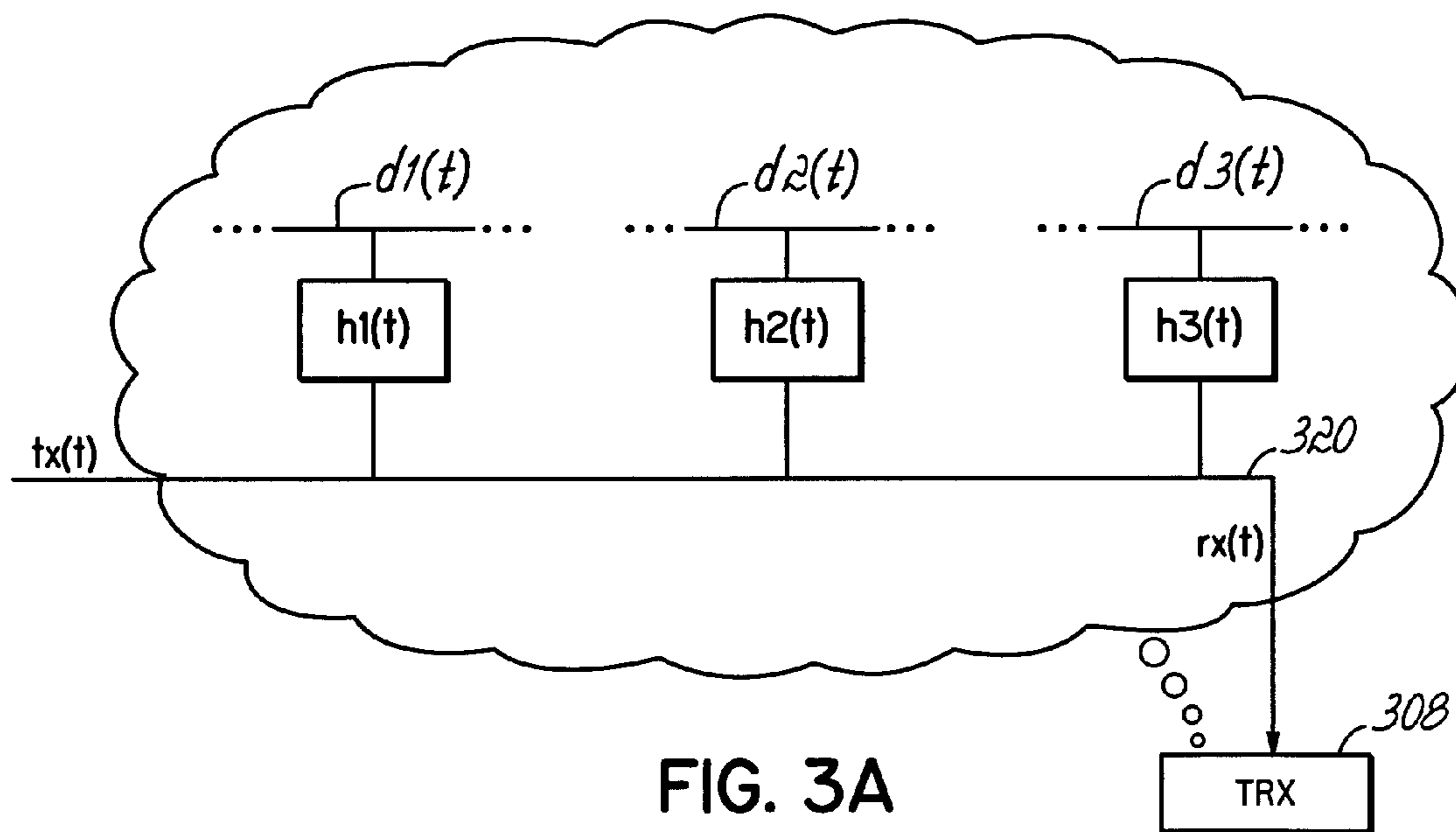


FIG. 3A

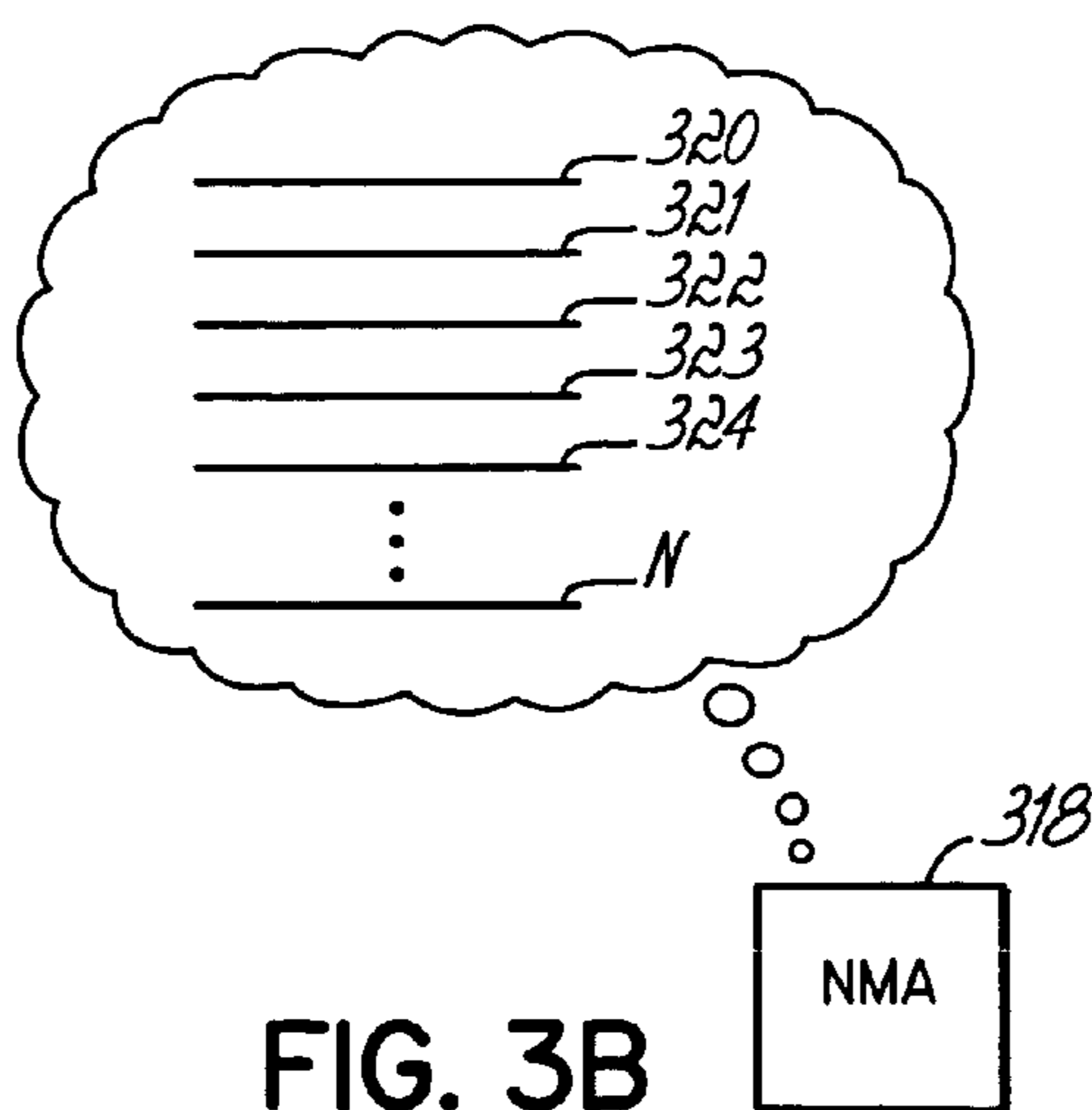


FIG. 3B

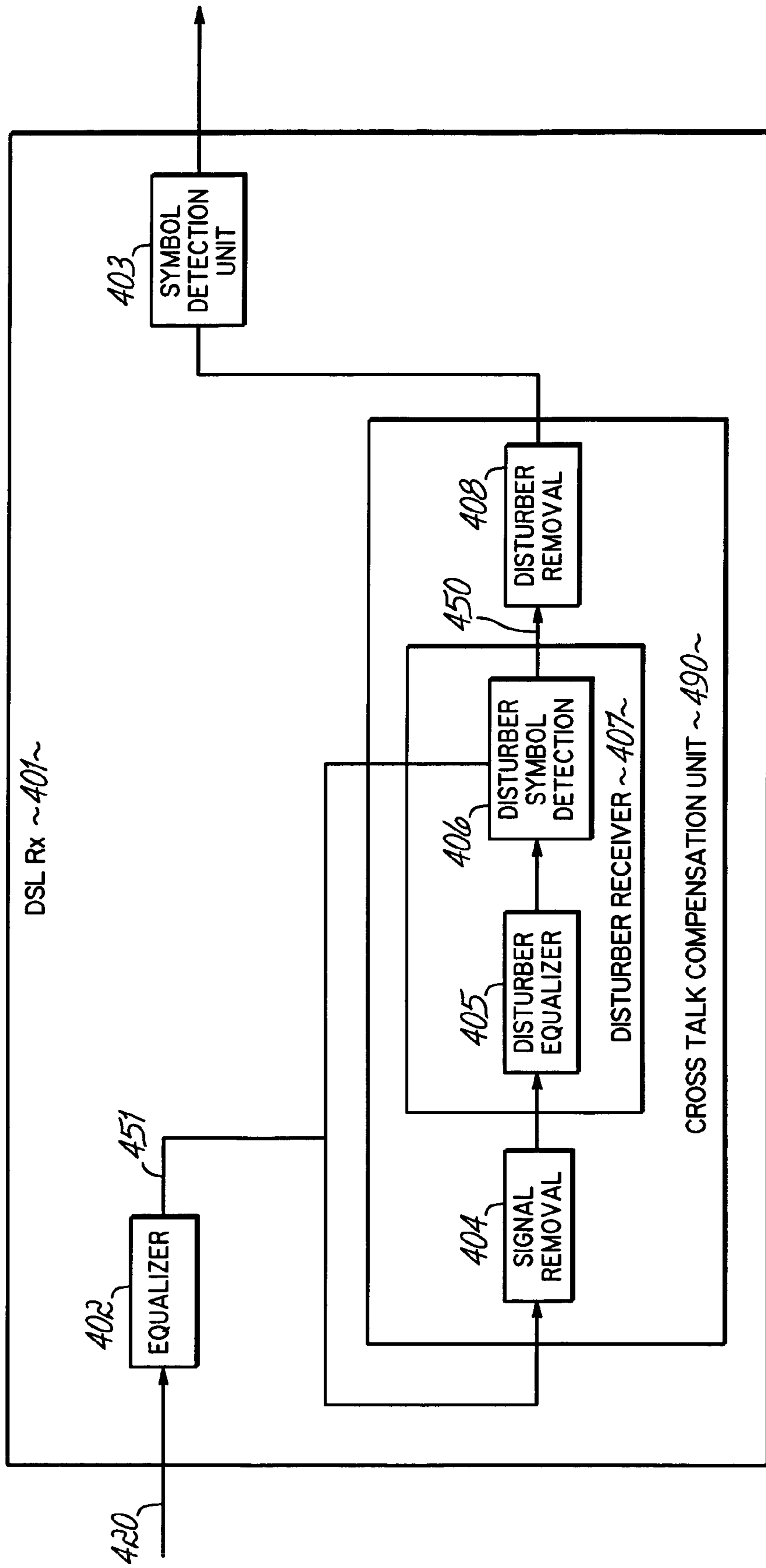


FIG. 4

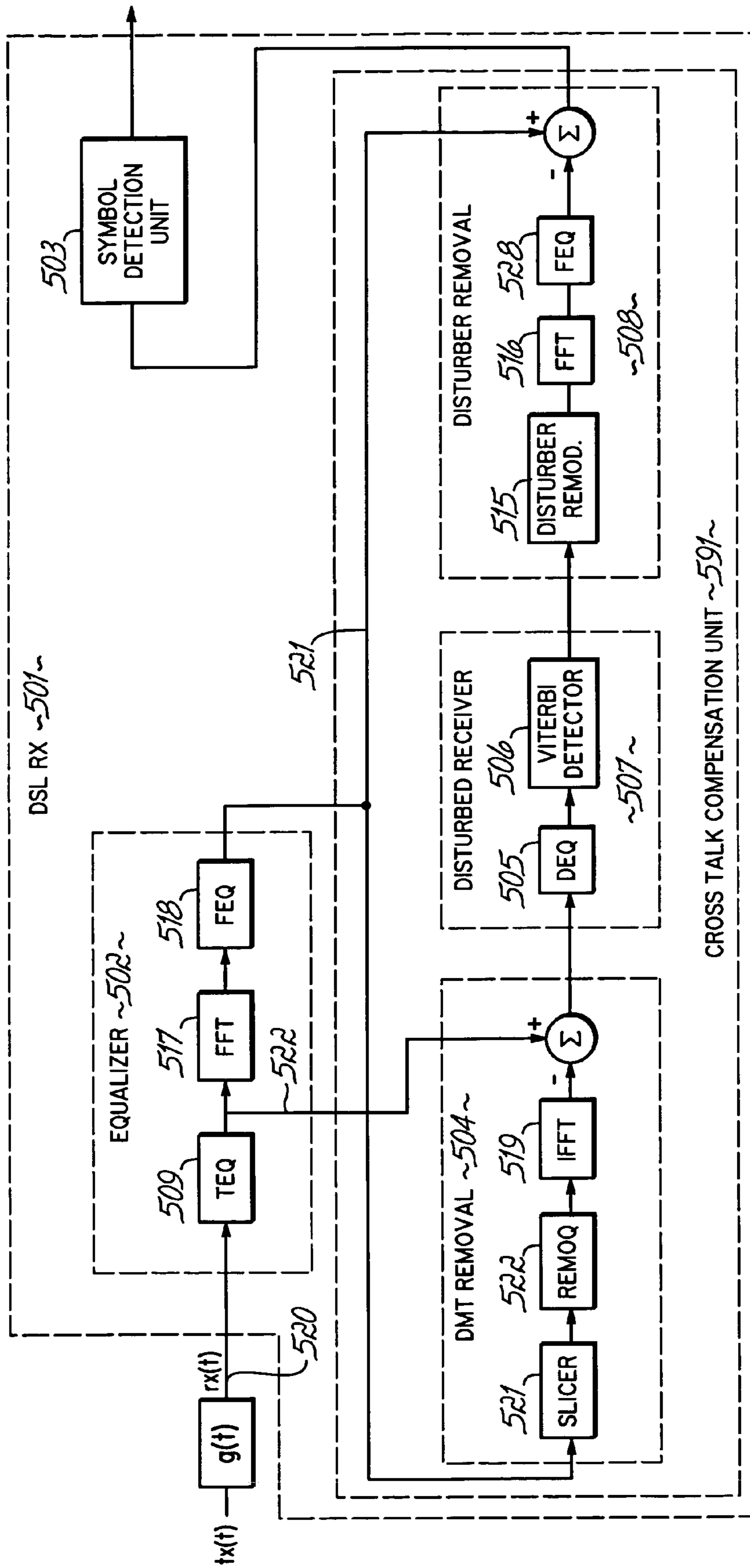


FIG. 5

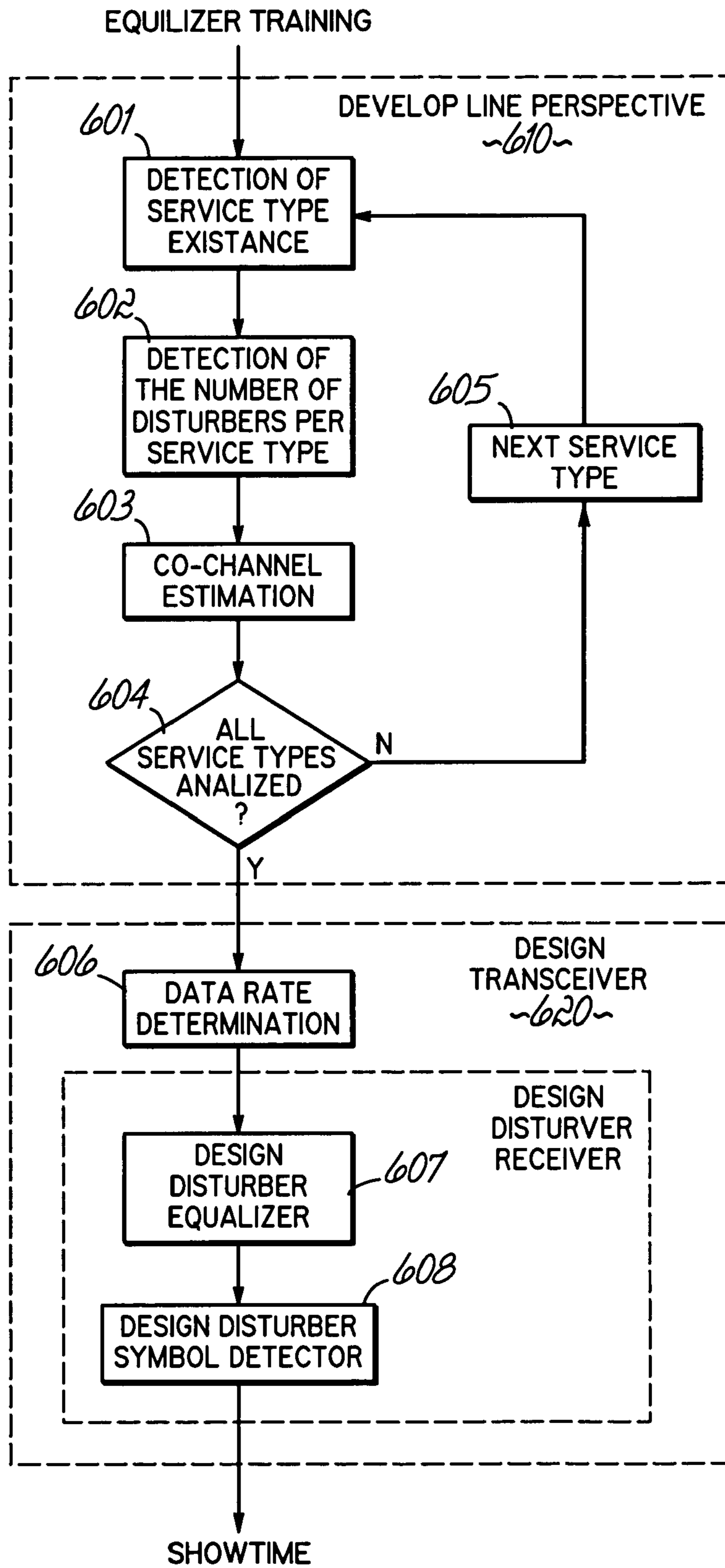


FIG. 6

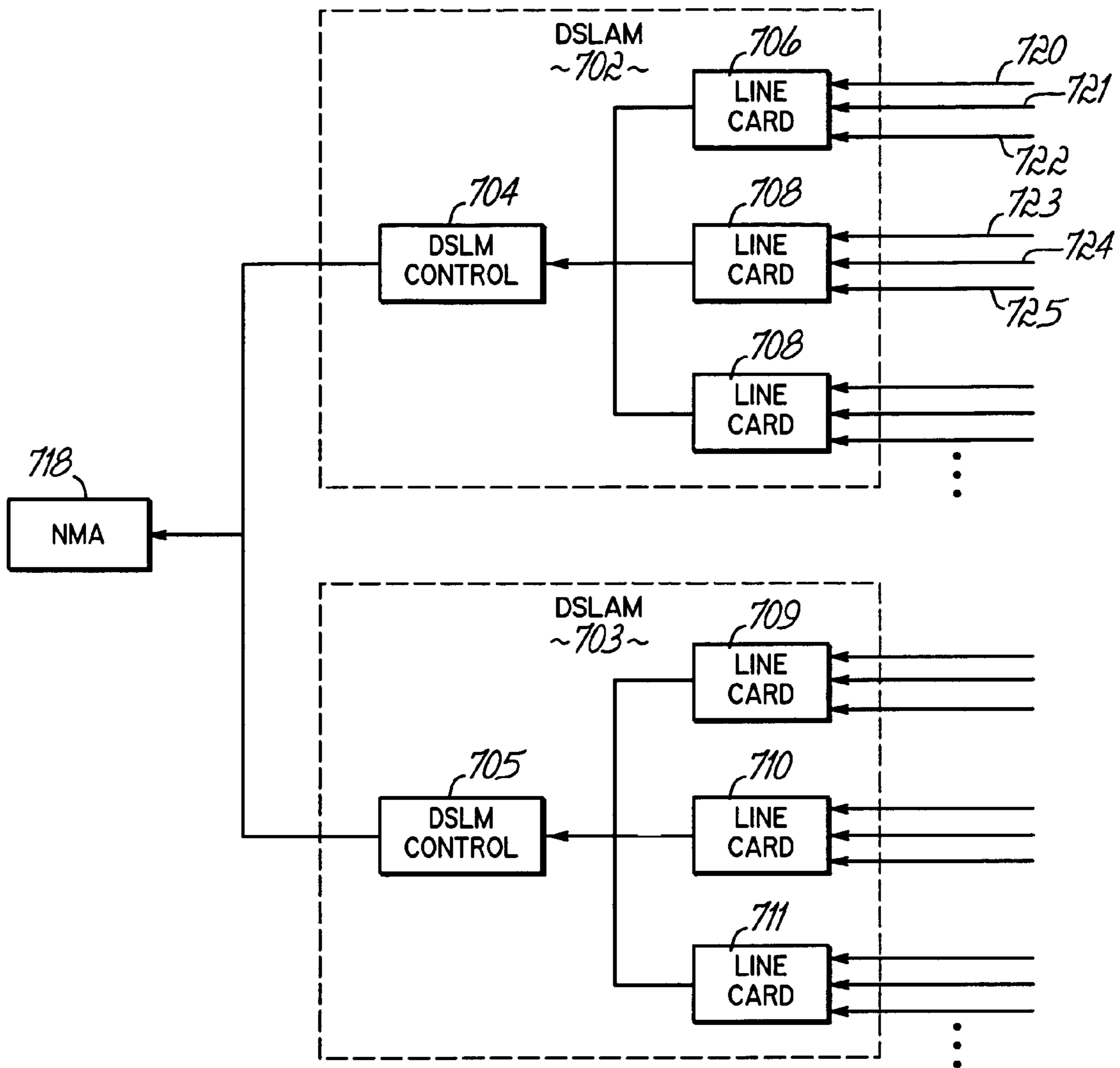


FIG. 7

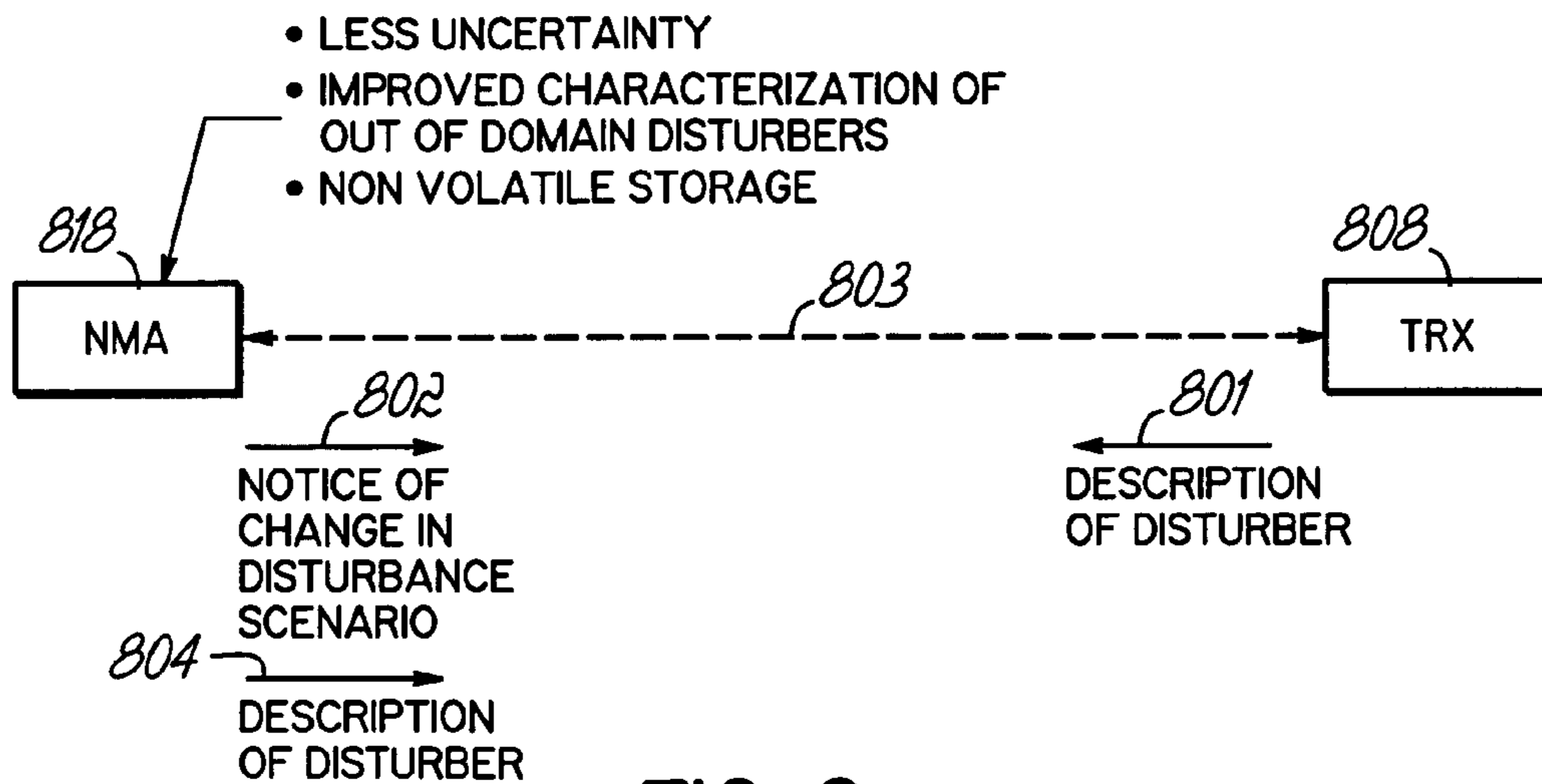


FIG. 8

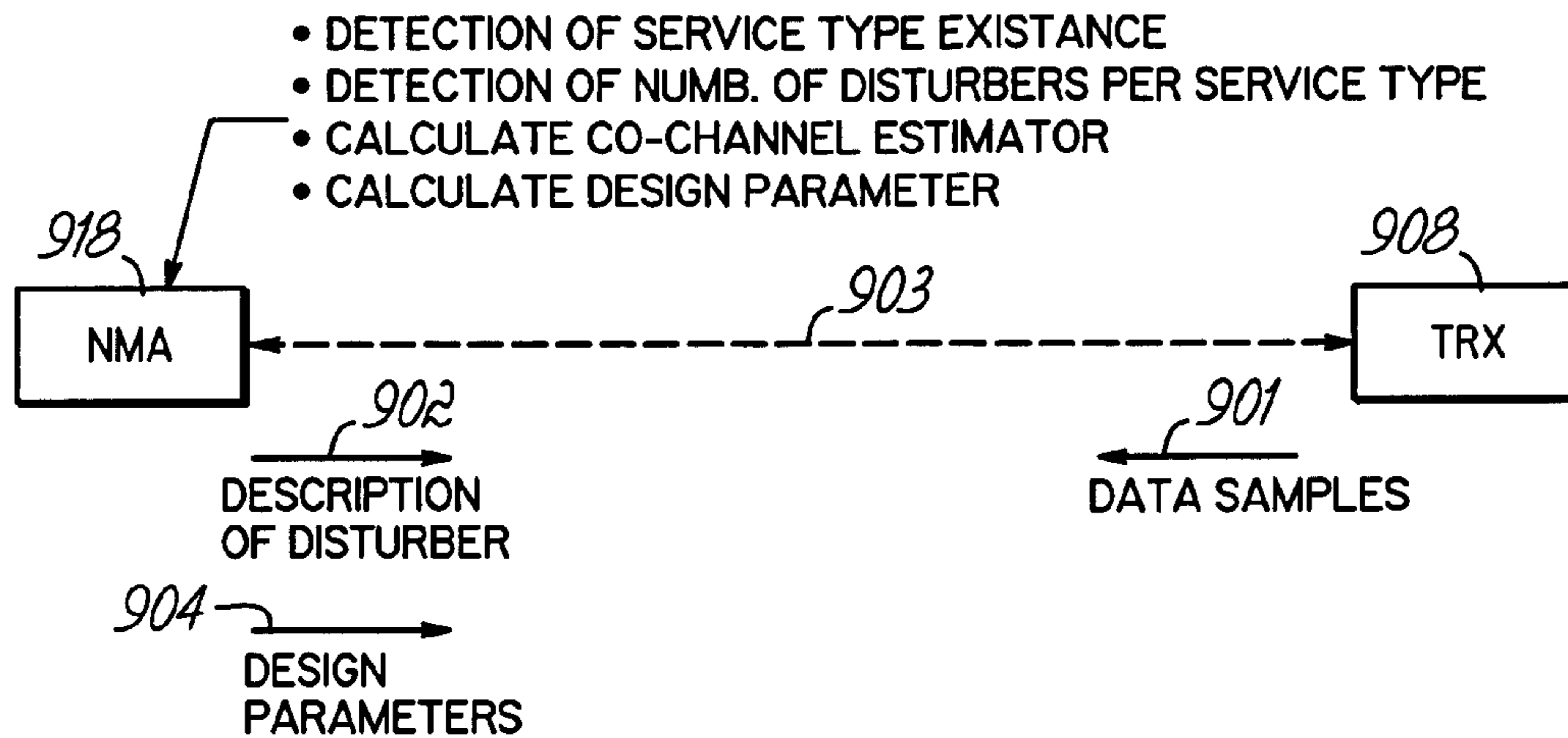


FIG. 9

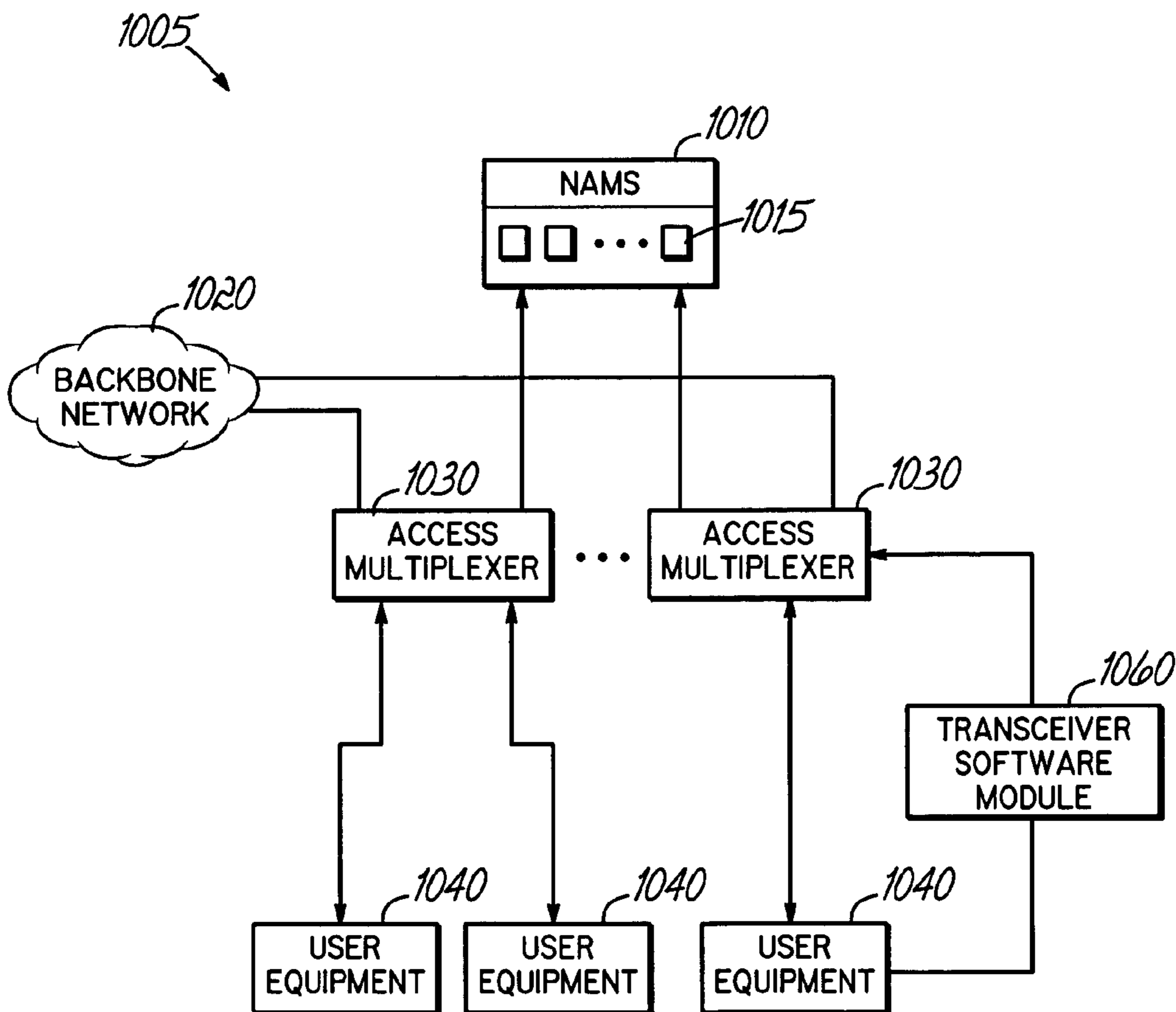


FIG. 10

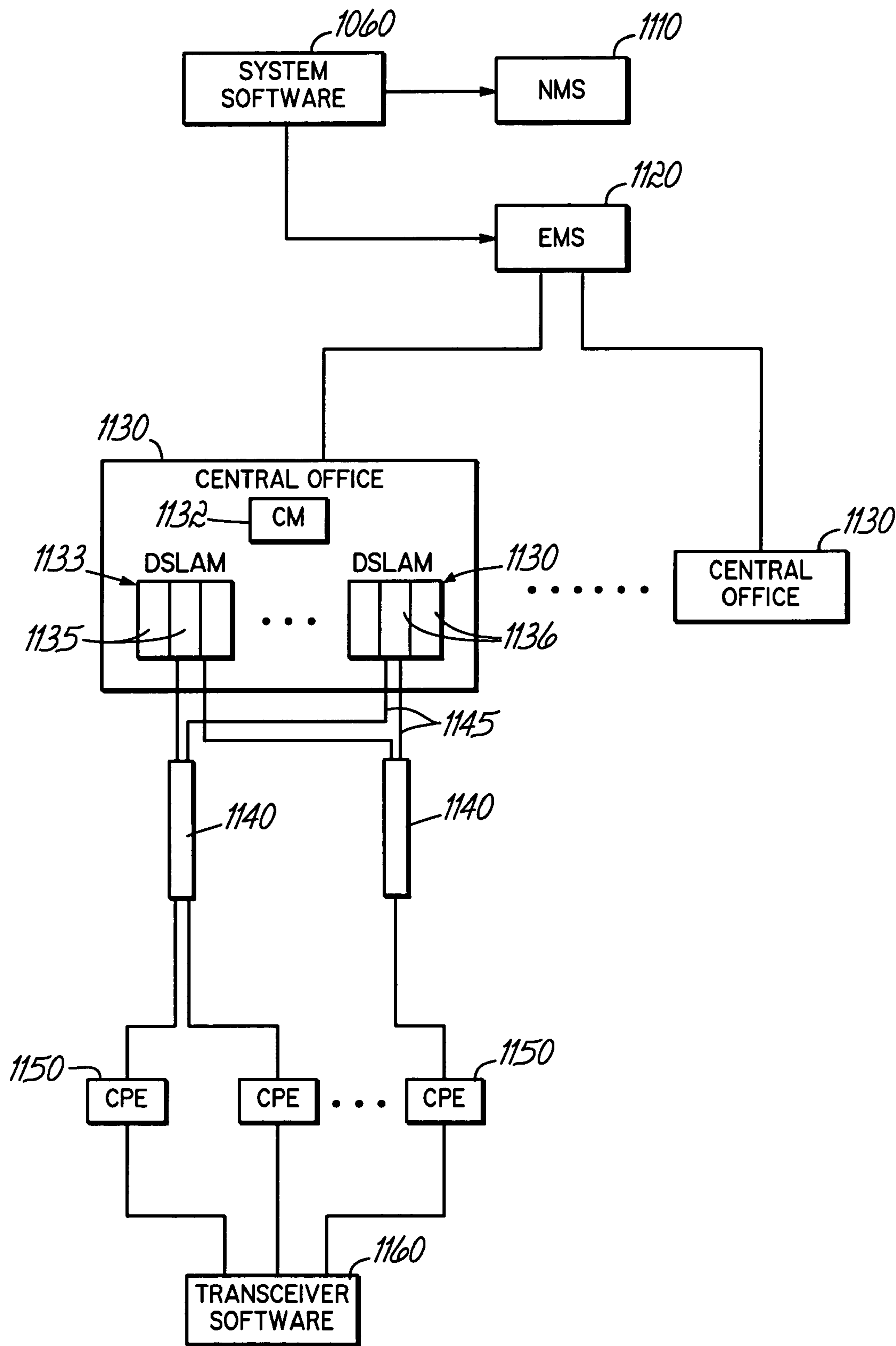


FIG. 11

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
COOPERATIVE DIAGNOSIS OF
IMPAIRMENTS AND MITIGATION OF
DISTURBERS IN COMMUNICATION
SYSTEMS**

CLAIM OF PRIORITY

This application claims the benefit of the filing date of the following Provisional U.S. patent applications:

“SPECTRAL MANAGEMENT AND OPTIMIZATION THROUGH ACCURATE IDENTIFICATION OF CROSS-TALK CHANNELS AND UNCERTAINTY”, application No. 60/164,986, filed Nov. 11, 1999;

“SPECTRAL MANAGEMENT AND OPTIMIZATION THROUGH ACCURATE IDENTIFICATION OF CROSS-TALK CHANNELS AND UNCERTAINTY”, application No. 60/181,125, filed on Feb. 8, 2000;

“SPECTRAL MANAGEMENT AND OPTIMIZATION THROUGH ACCURATE IDENTIFICATION OF CROSS-TALK CHANNELS AND UNCERTAINTY”, application No. 60/183,675, filed on Feb. 18, 2000;

“USE OF UNCERTAINTY IN PHYSICAL LAYER SIGNAL PROCESSING IN COMMUNICATIONS”, application No. 60/165,399, filed Nov. 11, 1999;

“SHARED COMPUTATIONAL RESOURCES FOR IMPROVED PERFORMANCE OF A TRANSCEIVER” application No. 60/215,159, filed on Jun. 30, 2000; and

“SYSTEM LEVEL SUPPORT FOR TRANSCEIVER PERFORMANCE”, application No. 60/215,680, filed on Jun. 30, 2000.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The field of invention relates to communications generally; and more specifically, to improving the performance of a network by sharing resources or information between a network perspective and a line perspective.

BACKGROUND

Overview

In the communications arena one of the biggest challenges is to overcome crosstalk, noise, and other disturbances that interfere with signals. Whether the signals are transmitted over wires, cable, fiber optics, wireless, or other types of communication the signals suffer from some level of interference.

Interference in the signal may lead to certain limitations of the communication system. For example in wireless systems, such as cellular phones, interference may shorten the distance at which the signal can be reliably received and the clarity of the signal. As another example, in wire systems, such as digital subscriber lines (DSL), interference may shorten the distance at which the signal can be reliably received, i.e., limit loop reach. Interference may also decrease the bit rate of the data being transferred. Providers of telecommunications services recognize the need to monitor the quality of service provided to users of their networks and to identify the causes of problems reported by their customers. This task, however, is complicated significantly by several factors.

Some of these factors include: the large number of network users, the large amount of data collected from the deployed lines, and the presence of competing providers in the same physical line plant. The coexistence of ILECs

(Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers) and CLECs (Competitive Local Exchange Carriers) in the same cable binders, brought about by the federally mandated deregulation of local telecommunications markets, implies that services deployed by one carrier may be disturbing the users of another carrier, who has no information about the source of this disturbance.

It is thus highly desirable to sort through the collected data and determine whether a specific line is being disturbed by external interference, such as AM radio stations, or by internal interference, such as another DSL service, and whether that offending service belongs to the same carrier or not. Unfortunately, with today's deployed monitoring technology, carriers are extremely limited in their ability to perform such diagnoses with adequate accuracy and reliability.

The following discussion outlines in detail many of the problems of digital subscriber line (DSL) technology and potential solutions thereto. However, the discussion merely uses DSL as one example of the many communication systems (e.g., wireline, wireless, optical, cable, etc.) in which the present invention may be used. Thus the present invention should not be limited to merely DSL communication systems.

Overview with Respect to DSL

Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) networks provide high speed networking service while preserving the investment made in traditional telephone lines. FIG. 1 shows an exemplary topology of a DSL network. In the exemplary DSL network topology **100** of FIG. 1, various customer premise equipment (CPE) modems **105**, **106**, **107** are communicatively coupled to a central office switching center **101** via ordinary telephone lines (e.g., lines **120** through **122**).

Customer premise equipment **105**, **106**, **107** is equipment located at the customer's location (e.g., a customer's home or office). In the exemplary network topology **100** of FIG. 1, the customer premise equipment **105**, **106**, **107** possesses at least one transceiver (e.g., transceiver **108** in CPE **105**) that is responsible for: 1) controlling at the CPE the reception of information sent from the service provider; and 2) controlling at the CPE the transmission of information sent to the service provider.

Information that flows in the network **100** toward the customer (e.g., toward the direction of a CPE as seen in FIG. 1) has a “downstream” direction while information that flows in the network **100** away from the customer (e.g., away from a CPE as seen in FIG. 1) has an “upstream” direction. Thus it may be said that a transceiver within a CPE is responsible for controlling at the CPE the transmission of upstream information and the reception of downstream information.

Various DSL service schemes exist. For example, at a high level, DSL services are characterized according to the bandwidth allocated for a customer's upstream and downstream traffic. Services that reserve approximately equal amounts of bandwidth for a customer's upstream and downstream traffic are referred to as “symmetric DSL” while services that reserve approximately unequal amounts of bandwidth for a customer's upstream and downstream traffic are referred to as “asymmetric DSL”.

Symmetric DSL (SDSL), High bit rate DSL (HDSL, HDSL-2) and ISDN DSL (IDSL) are versions of symmetric DSL. Asymmetric DSL (ADSL), Rate Adaptive DSL (RADSL), Very high bit rate DSL (VDSL), and G.Lite are versions of asymmetric DSL. Any of these DSL services (as

well as other potential future DSL services that are not listed above) may be referred to as “DSL”.

Note that the central office **101** includes a plurality of DSL Access Multiplexers **102, 103, 104** (DSLAMs). A DSLAM operates as a distributor of DSL services. That is, for example, DSLAM **102** forwards/collects downstream/upstream information sent from/to higher layers of a service provider’s network to/from transceivers **108, 109, 110**. The service provider’s DSL network is controlled by a Network Management Agent (NMA) **118**.

An NMA **118** is one or more software routines that monitor the operation of a network (e.g., by collecting various performance monitoring statistics sent from the DSLAMs **102, 103, 104**) and controls various aspects of a network (e.g., by enabling or disabling service on a particular line). The NMA **118** shown in FIG. 1 monitors and controls the DSL network **100** by communicating with the DSLAMs through the Element Management Systems **116, 117** (EMSs). The NMA **118**, as an example, may be executed as part of a network’s Network Management System (NMS). An EMS effectively distributes to the DSLAMs control information sent from the NMA and forwards to the NMA **118** network performance or network status indicia sent from the DSLAMs. More details on a DSL system are provided below.

FIG. 2 shows an exemplary depiction of a receiver **201** within a DSL transceiver **208**. That is, for example, transceiver **208** of FIG. 2 may be viewed as corresponding to transceiver **108** of FIG. 1 and line **220** of FIG. 2 may be viewed as corresponding to line **120** of FIG. 1. Recalling that the transceiver **208** is responsible for controlling both the transmission of upstream traffic and the reception of downstream traffic, note that receiver **201** assists the performance of the latter of these two functions.

The receiver **201** includes an equalizer **202** and a symbol detection unit **203** (which may also be referred to as a symbol detector **203**). The equalizer **202** adjusts the transfer function of the receive channel such that the frequency components of the received waveform $rx(t)$ **221** that are associated with the signal (i.e., the frequency components of the received waveform $rx(t)$ **221** that are associated with the downstream information sent from the service provider to the transceiver **208**) are enhanced with respect to the frequency components of the waveform $rx(t)$ **221** that are not associated with the signal (i.e., the frequency components of the waveform’s “noise”). For example, the signal components alone may be amplified, the noise components alone may be suppressed or a combination of both.

The symbol detection unit **203** converts the features of the equalized waveform **222** into digital 1s and 0s according to the modulation scheme employed by the particular type of DSL service being implemented. As a result of the equalizer’s activity, the signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) in the receive channel is enhanced and the performance of the symbol detection unit **203** (i.e., its ability to correctly reproduce the digital information sent by the service provider) is improved.

Referring back to FIG. 1, note that the ordinary telephone lines that couple the DSLAMs and the CPEs are tightly packed together in a binder such as binder **114** and binder **115**. Because ordinary telephone lines were originally designed for low speed voice/telephony communications, they are typically packed in a binder without shielding. That is, a line is not protected from receiving electromagnetic interference associated with the waveforms that appear on

another line; nor are the waveforms on a line prevented from radiating so as to interfere with the waveforms that appear on another line.

The interference described above, commonly referred to as cross-talk, is viewed as noise that may corrupt the operation of the symbol detection unit **203** discussed above with respect to FIG. 2. Cross-talk typically increases as the frequencies of the waveforms on an ordinary telephone line increase.

When the ordinary telephone lines were originally installed to carry voice traffic, cross-talk was insubstantial because of the lower frequencies used to transmit voice traffic. However, as DSL is designed to provide higher speed services (as compared to traditional telephony service) over these ordinary telephone lines, cross-talk from DSL waveforms is much more severe. The more severe cross-talk frequently hampers the successful deployment of a DSL service.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

A method that sends upstream a collection of data samples measured from a network line.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention is illustrated by way of example, and not limitation, in the Figures of the accompanying drawings in which:

- FIG. 1 shows an exemplary DSL network topology;
- FIG. 2 shows an exemplary DSL receiver within a DSL transceiver;
- FIG. 3a shows an exemplary line perspective;
- FIG. 3b shows an exemplary network perspective;
- FIG. 4 shows an improved DSL receiver having a cross-talk compensation unit;
- FIG. 5 shows an embodiment of a DMT-ADSL DSL receiver that conforms to the improved DSL receiver approach of FIG. 4;
- FIG. 6 shows a methodology for developing a line perspective;
- FIG. 7 shows a depiction of event notification flows that may be used to develop a network perspective;
- FIG. 8 shows a depiction of information being shared between a line level perspective and a network level perspective;
- FIG. 9 shows another depiction of information being shared between a line level perspective and a network level perspective;
- FIG. 10 illustrates an exemplary communication system **1005** that may benefit from the present invention; and
- FIG. 11 illustrates a DSL system.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

1.0 Overview

In the following description, for purposes of explanation, numerous specific details are set forth in order to provide a thorough understanding of the present invention. It will be evident, however, to one skilled in the art that the present invention may be practiced without these specific details. In some instances, well-known structures and devices are shown in block diagram form, rather than in detail, in order to avoid obscuring the present invention. These embodiments are described in sufficient detail to enable those skilled in the art to practice the invention, and it is to be

understood that other embodiments may be utilized and that logical, mechanical, electrical and other changes may be made without departing from the scope of the present invention.

Some portions of the detailed descriptions that follow are presented in terms of algorithms and symbolic representations of operations on data bits within a computer memory. These algorithmic descriptions and representations are the means used by those skilled in the data processing arts to most effectively convey the substance of their work to others skilled in the art. An algorithm is here, and generally, conceived to be a self-consistent sequence of acts leading to a desired result. The acts are those requiring physical manipulations of physical quantities. Usually, though not necessarily, these quantities take the form of electrical or magnetic signals capable of being stored, transferred, combined, compared, and otherwise manipulated. It has proven convenient at times, principally for reasons of common usage, to refer to these signals as bits, values, elements, symbols, characters, terms, numbers, or the like.

It should be borne in mind, however, that all of these and similar terms are to be associated with the appropriate physical quantities and are merely convenient labels applied to these quantities. Unless specifically stated otherwise as apparent from the following discussion, it is appreciated that throughout the description, discussions utilizing terms such as "processing" or "computing" or "calculating" or "determining" or "displaying" or the like, refer to the action and processes of a computer system, or similar electronic computing device, that manipulates and transforms data represented as physical (electronic) quantities within the computer system's registers and memories into other data similarly represented as physical quantities within the computer system memories or registers or other such information storage, transmission or display devices.

The present invention can be implemented by an apparatus for performing the operations herein. This apparatus may be specially constructed for the required purposes, or it may comprise a general purpose computer, selectively activated or reconfigured by a computer program stored in the computer. Such a computer program may be stored in a computer readable storage medium, such as, but not limited to, any type of disk including floppy disks, optical disks, CD-ROMs, and magnetic-optical disks, read-only memories (ROMs), random access memories (RAMs), EPROMs, EEPROMs, magnetic or optical cards, or any type of media suitable for storing electronic instructions, and each coupled to a computer system bus.

The algorithms and displays presented herein are not inherently related to any particular computer or other apparatus. Various general purpose systems may be used with programs in accordance with the teachings herein, or it may prove convenient to construct more specialized apparatus to perform the required method. For example, any of the methods according to the present invention can be implemented in hard-wired circuitry, by programming a general purpose processor or by any combination of hardware and software. One of skill in the art will immediately appreciate that the invention can be practiced with computer system configurations other than those described below, including hand-held devices, multiprocessor systems, microprocessor-based or programmable consumer electronics, network PCs, minicomputers, mainframe computers, and the like. The invention can also be practiced in distributed computing environments where tasks are performed by remote processing devices that are linked through a communications net-

work. The required structure for a variety of these systems will appear from the description below.

The methods of the invention may be implemented using computer software. If written in a programming language conforming to a recognized standard, sequences of instructions designed to implement the methods can be compiled for execution on a variety of hardware platforms and for interface to a variety of operating systems. In addition, the present invention is not described with reference to any particular programming language. It will be appreciated that a variety of programming languages may be used to implement the teachings of the invention as described herein. Furthermore, it is common in the art to speak of software, in one form or another (e.g., program, procedure, application . . .), as taking an action or causing a result. Such expressions are merely a shorthand way of saying that execution of the software by a computer causes the processor of the computer to perform an action or produce a result.

2.0 Overview of General Communication Network

The present invention is applicable to a variety of communication systems, for example: wireline, wireless, cable, and optical. FIG. 10 illustrates an exemplary communication system **1005** that may benefit from the present invention. The backbone network **1020** is generally accessed by a user through a multitude of access multiplexers **1011** such as: base stations, DSLAMs (DSL Access Multiplexers), or switchboards. The access multiplexers **1011** communicate management data with a Network Access Management System (NAMS) **1010**. The NAMS **1010** includes several management agents **1015** which are responsible for monitoring traffic patterns, transmission lines status, etc. Further, the access multiplexers **1011** communicate with the network users. The user equipment **1040** exchanges user information, such as user data and management data, with the access multiplexer **1011** in a downstream and upstream fashion. The upstream data transmission is initiated at the user equipment **1040** such that the user data is transmitted from the user equipment **1040** to the access multiplexer **1011**. Conversely, the downstream data is transmitted from the access multiplexer **1011** to the user equipment **1040**. User equipment **1040** may consist of various types of receivers that contain modems such as: cable modems, DSL modems, and wireless modems.

The invention described herein provides a method and system for managing the upstream and downstream data in a communication system. As such, the present invention provides management agents that may be implemented in the NAMS **1010**, the access multiplexers **1011**, and/or the user equipment **1040**. One example of such a management agent is a system software module **1070** that may be embedded in the NAMS **1010**. Another management agent that manages the data in the communication system **1005** is a transceiver software module **1060** that may be embedded in the access multiplexer **1011** and/or the user equipment **1040**. Further details of the operation of modules **1070** and **1060** are described below.

For illustration purposes and in order not to obscure the present invention, an example of a communication system that may implement the present invention is a DSL communication system. As such, the following discussion, including FIG. 11, is useful to provide a general overview of the present invention and how the invention interacts with the architecture of the DSL system.

3.0 Overview of DSL Example

The present invention may be implemented in software modules or hardware that DSL equipment manufacturers

may then embed in their hardware. Thus, although FIG. 11 illustrates the present invention as software, the present invention should not be limited thereto. It should also be noted that this patent application may only describe a portion or portions of the entire inventive system and that other portions are described in co-pending patent applications filed on even date herewith.

FIG. 11 illustrates an exemplary embodiment of the present invention as implemented in a DSL system. The DSL system consists of a network of components starting from the Network Management System (NMS) 1110 all the way down to the Customer Premise Equipment (CPE) 1150. The following is a brief description of how these components are interconnected.

The Network Management System (NMS) 1110 is a very high level component that monitors and controls various aspects of the DSL system through an Element Management System (EMS) 1120. The NMS 1110 may be connected to several Central Offices (CO) 1111 through any number of EMSs 1120. The EMS 1120 effectively distributes the control information from the NMS 1110 to the DSL Access Multiplexers (DSLAMs) 1133 and forwards to the NMS 1110 network performance or network status indicia from the DSLAMs 1133. DSLAMs 1133 reside in a Central Office (CO) 1111, usually of a telecommunications company. Alternatively, DSLAMs 1133 may reside in remote enclosures called Digital Loop Carriers (DLC). The CO 1111 may have tens or hundreds of DSLAMs 1133 and control modules (CM) 1132. ADSLAM 1133 operates as a distributor of DSL service and includes line cards 1135 and 1136 that contain CO modems. The CO modems are connected to at least one line 1145, but more frequently it contains several line cards 1135 and 1136 that are connected to several lines 1145. Usually the lines 1145 are traditional phone lines that consist of twisted wire pairs and there may be multiple lines 1145 in a binder 1140 and multiple binders in a cable. The transmission cables act as packaging and protection for the lines 1145 until the lines 1145 reach the Customer Premise Equipment (CPE) 1150. It should be noted that a DSLAM 1135 does not necessarily have to be connected to lines 1145 in a single binder 1140 and may be connected to lines in multiple binders 1140. The lines 1145 terminate at the CPE 1150 in transceivers that include CPE modems. The CPE 1150 may be part of or connected to residential equipment, for example a personal computer, and/or business equipment, for example a computer system network.

As discussed in the background section, communications systems often suffer from interference and/or impairments such as crosstalk, AM radio, power ingress noise, thermal variations, and/or other "noise" disturbers. The present invention or portions of the present invention provide the user the capability to analyze, diagnose and/or compensate for these interferences and/or impairments. It also provides the ability to predict and optimize performance of the communication system in the face of impairments.

As illustrated in FIG. 11, the transceiver software of the present invention 1160, depending upon how implemented, may provide the user with the ability to analyze, diagnose, and compensate for the interference and/or impairment patterns that may affect their line.

Also as illustrated in FIG. 11, the system software of the present invention 1170, depending upon how implemented, may provide the service provider with the ability to diagnose, analyze, and compensate for the interference and/or impairment patterns that may affect the service they are providing on a particular line. The diagnosis and analysis of the transceiver software also provide the ability to monitor

other transmission lines that are not connected to the DSLAMs or NMS but share the same binders.

It should be noted that the system software of the present invention 1170 may be implemented in whole or in part on the NMS 1110 and/or EMS 1120 depending upon the preference of the particular service provider. Likewise, it should be noted that the transceiver software of the present invention 1160 may be implemented in whole or in part on the DSLAM 1133 and/or transceivers of CPE 1150 depending upon the preference of the particular user. Thus, the particular implementation of the present invention may vary, and depending upon how implemented, may provide a variety of different benefits to the user and/or service provider.

It should also be noted that the system software of the present invention 1170 and the transceiver software of the present invention 1160 may operate separately or may operate in conjunction with one another for improved benefits. As such, the transceiver software of the present invention 1160 may provide diagnostic assistance to the system software of the present invention 1170. Additionally, the system software of the present invention 1170 may provide compensation assistance to the transceiver software of the present invention 1160.

Thus, given the implementation of the present invention with respect to the DSL system example of FIG. 11, one of ordinary skill in the communications art would understand how the present invention may also be implemented in other communications systems, for example: wireline, wireless, cable, optical, and other communication systems. Further details of the present invention are provided below. Additional examples of how the present invention may be implemented in a DSL system are also provided below for illustrative purposes.

4.0 Overview of a Line Perspective and a Network Perspective

Recall from the background that cross-talk between lines in a DSL network may hamper the successful deployment of the DSL network. FIGS. 3a and 3b relate to perspectives of a DSL network that may be developed by two different network components (e.g., a transceiver 308 as seen in FIG. 3a and the NMA 318 as seen in FIG. 3b) in order to understand the causes and/or effects of cross-talk within the DSL network.

FIG. 3a shows a perspective that may be developed at the line of a DSL network (e.g., by a DSL transceiver 308). A line perspective is a collection of information that characterizes the environment of a DSL line. For example, the line perspective of line 320 in FIG. 3a includes a model for each source of cross-talk noise that disturbs signal reception on line 320. A source of cross-talk noise (e.g., a waveform on a proximate line) may be referred to as a disturber. Cross-talk noise may therefore also be referred to as disturber noise. The exemplary line perspective of FIG. 3a indicates that the DSL transceiver 308 has identified three different disturbers $d1(t)$, $d2(t)$, and $d3(t)$.

Thus, for example, disturber $d1(t)$ may correspond to a waveform on a first line, $d2(t)$ may correspond to a waveform on a second line, and $d3(t)$ may correspond to a waveform on a third line. Each disturber $d1(t)$, $d2(t)$, $d3(t)$ passes through and is processed by its corresponding co-channel $h1(t)$, $h2(t)$, and $h3(t)$. Each co-channel $h1(t)$, $h2(t)$, and $h3(t)$ represents the impulse response of the electromagnetic coupling that exists between lines that "cross-talk" with one another.

In order to improve the signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) in the transceiver's receive channel, as an example, the transceiver **308** may develop as part of its line perspective of line **320**: 1) the disturber signals $d1(t)$, $d2(t)$, $d3(t)$; and 2) each disturber's corresponding co-channel impulse response $h1(t)$, $h2(t)$, and $h3(t)$. With this line perspective of line **320**, the transceiver **380** may then at least approximate and remove disturber noise on line **320**. As a result, SNR will be improved. More details as to how a line perspective may be developed are provided further below.

FIG. **3b** shows another perspective of a DSL network that may be referred to as a network perspective. A network perspective is an understanding of cross-talk (or other interference) as developed through the correlation of information obtained from events observed on the lines within a network. As seen in FIG. **3b**, note that a network perspective may be developed by a DSL network's NMA **318**. The NMA **318** "keeps track of" events such as changes in the performance and/or configuration of each line in the DSL network that the NMA **318** exhibits control over.

By keeping track of and correlating information from these events, an understanding of the cross-talk between the network's lines (or other types of interference) may be developed. For example, if the NMA **318** observes as an event that lines **320**, **321** and **323** each experienced a drop in SNR just after an increase in the service speed on line **324** was allowed, the NMA **318** can assume that line **324** presents disturber noise on lines **320**, **321** and **322**.

Furthermore, in light of the amount of SNR reduction that has occurred on each line, the NMA **318** can approximate the degree of cross coupling between line **324** and each of lines **320**, **321** and **322**. This information may be used, for example, to prevent or limit the extent of further speed increases on line **324** (so that proper operation of lines **320**, **321** and **322** is ensured). More details as to how a network perspective may be developed is provided further below.

The discussion that follows demonstrates that transferring line perspective information to a network perspective and/or transferring network perspective information to a line perspective may result in the development of more accurate line and/or network perspectives and/or increased performance of the DSL network as a whole. For example, referring to FIG. **3b**, if the network perspective is informed that the line perspective of line **321** includes a disturber having a frequency that corresponds to the speed of line **324**, the network perspective's confidence that line **324** presents cross-talk on line **321** is increased.

As a second example, recall that a line perspective may develop an understanding of the disturbers $d1(t)$, $d2(t)$, $d3(t)$ and their corresponding co-channels $h1(t)$, $h2(t)$, and $h3(t)$. The computational resources available to a transceiver **308** that develops this line perspective (e.g., a microprocessor or digital signal processor (DSP) in the CPE) may be limited so that only a less detailed perspective of the disturbers and/or their corresponding co-channels can be developed.

By measuring the waveform $rx(t)$ and/or its associated frequency spectra and then forwarding this data upstream from the transceiver **308** (e.g., to the DSLAM, EMS or NMA) more accurate models of the disturbers and/or their co-channels can be developed. Typically, the DSLAM, EMS, and NMA possess more powerful computational resources (e.g., a multi-processor processing core) than the CPE.

By executing disturber and co-channel identification routines on these more powerful computational resources, more precise characterizations of the disturber and co-channel profiles may be developed. The more precise characteriza-

tions may then be sent downstream to the transceiver **308** resulting in an improved SNR as compared to the SNR that would have been achieved by executing disturber and/or co-channel characterization sequences at the CPE alone.

The following discussion develops a deeper understanding of how the line and network perspectives of FIGS. **3a** and **3b** may be developed. A discussion of the information that may be exchanged between these perspectives, and the benefits derived from this exchange, follows immediately afterward. Before continuing, however, it is important to emphasize that the techniques, design strategies, improvements, advantages, etc. discussed below may be applied to network technologies other than DSL (e.g., wireless networks, fiber optic networks, etc.). As such, a line may be viewed more generally as a communication channel that exists between a service provider and customer (e.g., a wireless link, a fiber optic cable, a copper cable, etc.).

5.0 Development of a Line Perspective

A. Improved Receiver Operation

Before discussing a methodology for developing a line perspective, the design and operation of an embodiment of a DSL receiver that is able to improve SNR by maintaining a line perspective will first be discussed. FIG. **4** shows an embodiment **401** of a DSL receiver as described just above. The operation of the equalizer **402** and the symbol detection unit **403** of FIG. **4** corresponds to the operation of the equalizer **202** and symbol detection unit **203** as described with respect to FIG. **2**.

Comparing the prior art DSL receiver **201** of FIG. **2** with the improved DSL receiver **401** of FIG. **4**, note the insertion of a cross-talk compensation unit **490** between the equalizer **402** and the symbol detection unit **403**. The cross-talk compensation unit **490** includes a signal removal unit **404**, disturber receiver **407** and a disturber removal unit **408**. The cross-talk compensation unit **490** removes disturber noise from the received waveform on line **420** prior to the symbol detection that is performed by the symbol detection unit **403**. Referring to FIGS. **3a** and **4**, the signal removal unit **404** and the disturber receiver **407** together represent a channel that provides a representation (e.g., a time domain representation or a frequency domain representation) of one or more disturber signals (e.g., disturber signals $d1(t)$, $d2(t)$, $d3(t)$ of FIG. **3a**) to the disturber removal unit **408** at a first disturber removal unit input **450**.

The disturber removal unit **408** accepts the disturber signal representation(s) and effectively processes them according to: 1) their corresponding co-channel $h1(t)$, $h2(t)$, $h3(t)$; and 2) the activity of the equalizer **402**. This processing produces a representation of the disturber noise as it appears at the output of the equalizer **403**. The disturber removal unit **408** then combines (e.g., subtracts) the disturber noise representation with the equalizer **402** output to produce an equalized signal having reduced disturber noise. The equalized signal having reduced disturber noise is then presented to the symbol detection unit **403** so that the signal (i.e., the downstream information sent from the service provider) may be detected.

Recall that the signal removal unit **404** and the disturber receiver **407** together represent a channel that provides a representation (e.g., a time domain representation or a frequency domain representation) of one or more disturber signals (e.g., disturber signals $d1(t)$, $d2(t)$, $d3(t)$ of FIG. **3a**) to the disturber removal unit **408** at a first disturber removal unit input **450**. The signal removal unit **404** removes those

aspects of the equalizer **403** output that correspond to the signal being sent as downstream traffic from the service provider to the receiver **401**.

That is, to the extent possible, the output of the signal removal unit **404** corresponds to pure “noise”. The disturber receiver **407** includes a disturber equalizer **405** and a disturber symbol detection unit **406**. The disturber equalizer **407** attempts to “undo” the activity of the equalizer **203**. That is, recall from the discussion in the background that an equalizer (such as equalizer **203** of FIG. 2 or equalizer **403** of FIG. 4) suppresses a channel’s noise and/or amplifies its signal.

In so doing, the equalizer **203** attempts to “whiten” the noise so that it possesses an approximately constant power spectral density over the frequency range of interest. As a result, particularly strong disturber noise frequency components (e.g., a 20–392 KHz band for a symmetric DSL service on a neighboring line) will be individually and disproportionately attenuated by the equalizer **203** (as compared to other noise frequency components). The disturber equalizer **405** attempts to reverse this disproportionate attenuation so that the pure spectral components of the disturber noise, as they appear on the line **420** prior to processing by the equalizer **402**, are recaptured.

After the original disturber noise power profile is approximately recaptured by the disturber equalizer **405**, the disturber symbol detection unit **406** reconstructs or otherwise deduces (to the extent possible), one or more disturber signals (e.g., disturber signals $d1(t)$, $d2(t)$, $d3(t)$ shown in FIG. 3a) as they appear on their respective lines. These are then forwarded to the disturber removal unit **408**.

FIG. 5 shows an exemplary embodiment of a Discrete Multi Tone—Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (DMT-ADSL) receiver **501** that conforms to the processing approach just described with respect to FIG. 4. The DMT-ADSL receiver **501** of FIG. 5 includes an equalizer **502** (which corresponds to the equalizer **402** of FIG. 4), a DMT signal removal unit **504** (which corresponds to the signal removal unit **404** of FIG. 4), a disturber receiver **507** (which corresponds to the disturber receiver **407** of FIG. 4), a disturber removal unit **508** (which corresponds to the disturber removal unit **408** of FIG. 4) and a symbol detection unit **503** (which corresponds to the symbol detection unit **403** of FIG. 4).

During a sequence referred to as “line training”, the equalizer **502** searches for the signal based upon the type and/or speed of service that is to be received. When the signal is found, the equalizer **502** adjusts an impulse response function profile associated with a time domain equalizer (TEQ) **509**. This impulse response function, when convoluted with the received signal $rx(t)$, produces an efficient representation of the received signal $rx(t)$ at the TEQ output **509**. Furthermore, the TEQ convolution may also provide (as an ancillary benefit) some degree of noise suppression.

An efficient representation of the received signal $rx(t)$ may be realized by limiting the number of samples used to represent the convolution of the TEQ impulse response with the channel $g(t)$ impulse response. An efficient representation of the received signal $rx(t)$ reduces the processing load presented to the transceiver’s processing resources (e.g., a microprocessor or digital signal processor or combination of both) for subsequent processing of the received waveform $rx(t)$.

The fast Fourier transform (FFT) unit **517** converts the efficient representation of the received waveform $rx(t)$ from the time domain to the frequency domain. The frequency

domain equalizer (FEQ) **518** searches for and extracts an efficient frequency domain representation of the DMT signal originally transmitted by the service provider $tx(t)$.

The DMT signal removal unit **504** corresponds to the signal removal unit **404** of FIG. 4. As such the output **510** of the DMT signal removal unit **504** corresponds to, to the extent possible, pure “noise”. As seen in FIG. 5, a slicer unit **521** detects (within the frequency domain) the DMT signal.

DMT is a modulation scheme that uses a plurality of quadrature amplitude modulated (QAM) sinusoids to transmit digital information. The frequency of each sinusoid is centered within a frequency “bin” (e.g., a frequency band of 4.3125 KHz reserved for its transmission. According to QAM modulation, the phase and amplitude of a sinusoid are modulated to represent the different possible states of the digital bits being transmitted. The number of bits that are transmitted on a line increases with the number of sinusoids that are transmitted and/or the number of different phase and amplitude positions (i.e., bit states) implemented per sinusoid.

The slicer unit **521** effectively determines the phase and amplitude of the received sinusoid(s) in order to extract the symbol information sent by the service provider. Remodulator **522** constructs a DMT signal (as modified by the channel $g(t)$ and the TEQ **509**) from this symbol information. The DMT signal is then converted to the time domain by the inverse Fourier transform (IFFT) unit **519**. Pure noise is created by subtracting the DMT signal (as presented by the IFFT unit **519**) from the equalizer output **522**. Pure noise, in this case, may also be referred to as a DMT-compensated signal.

It is important to point out that the receiver approach outlined in FIG. 5 may be used for DSL signals other than a DMT-ADSL signal. That is, the receiver design of FIG. 5 may be tailored for any DSL service provided the proper modulation schemes are accounted for. For example, if the received signal is a Pulse Amplitude Modulated (PAM) signal (as is the case with SDSL signals), the DMT removal unit **504** can be reconfigured as a PAM removal unit if a PAM based slicer **521** is employed. Thus, even though the particular embodiment being discussed with respect to FIG. 5 is limited to a DMT-ADSL application, those of ordinary skill will recognize that the receiver approach of FIG. 5 is actually applicable to DSL services other than DMT-ADSL.

After the DMT signal is removed by the DMT signal removal unit **504**, disturber signals are generated by the disturber receiver **507**. The disturber receiver **507** includes a disturber equalizer (DEQ) **505** (that corresponds to the disturber equalizer **405** of FIG. 4) and a disturber symbol detector **506** (that corresponds to the disturber symbol detector **406** of FIG. 4). In the embodiment of FIG. 5, the disturber symbol detector employs Viterbi processing techniques and thus may also be referred to as a Viterbi detector **506**.

As discussed with respect to the disturber equalizer **405** of FIG. 4, the DEQ **505** attempts to “undo” any noise suppression provided by the equalizer **502**. That is, with respect to the design approach of FIG. 5, the DEQ **505** attempts to undo any noise suppression provided by the TEQ **509**. Noise suppression from the TEQ may be undone by effectively inversely compensating for the adjustments made by the TEQ (during line training as discussed above) to the TEQ impulse response function profile.

That is, recalling that the TEQ **509** provides noise suppression, if the DEQ **505** impulse response function adjustment is opposite to that of the TEQ **509**, the noise suppression provided by the TEQ **509** may be effectively

eliminated. As such, at the DEQ 505 output, the disturber noise as it appears on the line has been re-captured.

In an embodiment, the DEQ 505 is designed using minimum-mean-squared-error (MMSE) techniques. The result of this DEQ design is filter coefficients that yield a filter which effectively counteracts the noise suppression provided by the TEQ 509.

The Viterbi detector 506 of FIG. 5 corresponds to the disturber symbol detector 406 of FIG. 4. As such, the Viterbi detector 506 reconstructs or otherwise deduces (to the extent possible), one or more disturber signals (e.g., disturber signals $d1(t)$, $d2(t)$, $d3(t)$ shown in FIG. 3a) as they appear on their respective lines.

For example, if a particular portion of the disturber noise presented by the DEQ 505 is understood to be a PAM-SDSL signal that is cross coupled to the receiver's line 520, the Viterbi detector 506 reconstructs the PAM-SDSL signal on the cross coupled (e.g., nearby) PAM-SDSL line from that portion of the disturber noise. Similarly, if another particular portion of the disturber noise presented by the DEQ 505 is understood to be a second PAM-SDSL signal that is cross coupled to the receiver's line 520, the Viterbi detector 506 may also reconstruct the second PAM-SDSL signal on the second cross coupled (e.g., nearby) PAM-SDSL line from the other portion of the disturber noise.

Note that the association of particular portions of the disturber noise presented by the DEQ 505 with specific types of "nearby" services is an aspect of the line level perspective (discussed with respect to FIG. 3a) held by the receiver 501. An exemplary embodiment of how this understanding/perspective is developed is provided in more detail below. The Viterbi detector 506 of FIG. 5 employs Maximum Likelihood Sequence Estimation (MLSE) to reconstruct, from its line level perspective, the particular disturber signal on the cross coupled line.

For example, PAM signals are used to transmit two bits of information via the modulation of a pulse amplitude (e.g., a pulse amplitude of +3 may correspond to 11, a pulse amplitude of +1 may correspond to 10, a pulse amplitude of -1 may correspond to 01, and a pulse amplitude of -3 may correspond to 00). The Viterbi detector 506 employs an MLSE technique to determine whether particular portions of the disturber noise presented by the DEQ 505 (that are understood to be caused by a particular PAM disturber) correspond to a +3, +1, -1, or -3. As such, the particular sequences of +/-3 and +/-1 deduced by the Viterbi detector 506 correspond to a disturber signal on a cross coupled line.

The deduced disturber signal is then presented to the disturber removal unit 508 at the disturber receiver output 550. Other disturber signals that the Viterbi detector 506 is designed to detect are also presented at the disturber receiver output 550. Note that the number of disturber signals that the Viterbi detector 506 is designed to detect is an aspect of the line level perspective held by the receiver 501.

For example, in an embodiment, the number of disturber signals detected by the Viterbi detector are limited (e.g., to 2 or 3 typically) by processing limitations available to the receiver 501. Thus, in such an embodiment, part of the Viterbi design process involves prioritizing which disturbers cause the strongest disturber noise.

After the disturber signals are presented to the disturber removal unit 508, the disturber remodulator 515 effectively passes each disturber signal through an estimation of its corresponding co-channel. That is, referring briefly back to FIG. 3a, recall that a line level perspective may include not only an understanding of a disturber signal (e.g., disturber signals $d1(t)$, $d2(t)$, and $d3(t)$) but also an understanding of

the channel (referred to as a co-channel $h1(t)$, $h2(t)$, $h3(t)$) that the cross-talk passes through in reaching the affected line 320. A discussion of how a co-channel may be estimated for each disturber signal is presented in more detail below.

The disturber remodulator 515 convolves the disturber signals $d1(t)$, $d2(t)$, $d3(t)$ that are received from the disturber detector 507 with the impulse response function of its corresponding co-channel (e.g., $h1(t)$ for $d1(t)$, $h2(t)$ for $d2(t)$, and $h3(t)$ for $d3(t)$). As a result, a representation of the disturber noise that is produced on the line 520 from these disturbers is created. This representation is then convolved with an impulse response $h_{TEQ}(t)$ that is representative of the equalization provided by the TEQ 509.

As a result, a representation of the disturber noise as it appears at the output of the TEQ 509 is created. This disturber noise representation (which corresponds to the disturber remodulator 515 output) is then converted from the time domain to the frequency domain by an FFT unit 516. The output of the FFT 516 is then multiplied by the FEQ 528 (which may be identical to the FEQ 518). This signal is, to the extent possible, identical to the disturber noise as it is presented at the output of the FEQ 518. By subtracting the output of the FEQ 528 from the FEQ 518 output, the disturbers will be approximately canceled (i.e., removed from the FEQ 518 output). As such, the SNR is enhanced before the symbols on the line 520 are detected by the symbol detection unit. It is important to point out that the receiver 501 approach outlined above should not be construed as limited to the particular frequency domain processing/time domain processing strategy that is displayed in FIG. 5.

B. Development of Line Level Perspective During Line Training

Recall from the discussions above that a line level perspective may be developed that includes: 1) an understanding of the disturber signals that exist on one or more cross coupled lines (e.g., as represented by disturber signals $d1(t)$, $d2(t)$, and $d3(t)$ in FIG. 3a) and their corresponding co-channels (e.g., as represented by impulse responses $h1(t)$, $h2(t)$, and $h3(t)$ in FIG. 3a).

FIG. 6 shows a methodology that may be used to develop the line perspective discussed just above. The development of a line perspective (and/or any disturber noise compensation that results) may be referred to as mitigation of disturbers. The development of a line perspective may occur during line training. Line training is a period of time prior to the actual use of the line to transmit a customer's information (referred to as "showtime"). During line training the CPE transceiver responsible for controlling the transmission/reception of upstream/downstream traffic "learns" about the operating environment of the line.

For example as seen in FIG. 6, before showtime occurs, the equalizers (e.g., the TEQ 509 and FEQ 518 of FIG. 5) undergo a training sequence in which the proper adjustments for suppressing the line's noise and/or amplifying the line's signal are established. After the equalizer adjustments are established, the disturber signals and their corresponding co-channels may be identified and/or otherwise characterized 610.

Then, based on the understanding of the disturber signals and their corresponding co-channels: 1) the disturber receiver (e.g., disturber receiver 407 of FIG. 4) is tailored 620 to detect the particular disturber signals chosen for compensation. This process is completed before showtime begins.

Referring to FIG. 6, a disturber signal may be identified or otherwise characterized through its type of service 601.

Said another way, with foresight of the types of services that may cause disturber noise (e.g., T1 or PAM-SDSL on a DMT-ADSL line), certain frequency ranges may be “focused upon” to see if disturber noise exists.

That is, for example, it is known that a T1 signal has a fundamental frequency of approximately 1.5 MHz. By searching across a frequency range centered at 1.5 MHz, the existence (or lack thereof) of disturber noise resulting from a cross-coupled T1 line may be confirmed and its exact frequency may be determined. Such a frequency range may be referred to as a “service specific” frequency range.

If disturber noise power (e.g., above a critical threshold to warrant further analysis) is detected for a particular service type, the corresponding frequency range may be further analyzed **602** to see how many disturber signals (i.e., how many cross coupled lines) exist for this type of service. For example, by “refocusing” in the service specific frequency range with a finer resolution bandwidth, each discovered “peak” may be assumed to be caused by a different line (owing to differences in crystal oscillator frequencies used to form the disturber signals). Note that identification of the frequency at which a particular peak occurs corresponds to a further refinement of the line level perspective. That is, not only has the service type for a source of disturbance been identified but also its particular frequency has been identified.

Once the number of disturbers of a particular service type is determined, a model of the spectral content of an ideal disturber signal for each discovered disturber is generated. This ideal disturber signal model may be compared against what is actually observed on the line (i.e., the disturber signal’s corresponding disturber noise) to generate **603** an estimation of the disturber signal’s co-channel. That is, the co-channel is responsible for (and may be characterized by) the “distortion” that occurs to the disturber signal as it is converted from a disturber signal to disturber noise.

The process described just above is iterated until each of the potential (i.e., foreseen) types of service that can cause disturber noise on the line are analyzed (e.g., when all the service specific frequency ranges have been searched over). Note that the concept of service type may be extended to include any cause of disturber noise. As such the method described above should not be construed as limited only to networking services that exist on an ordinary telephone line. For example, AM radio station carrier frequencies may be searched for any resulting disturbance noise.

Note that once all of the disturber sources and their co-channels have been identified, a complete line level perspective has been developed. That is, the service type and frequency particular to each disturber signal has been identified. Furthermore, the profile particular to each corresponding co-channel has also been identified.

The disturbers are then ranked according to disturber noise power. That is, the highest powered observed disturber noise is ranked first, the second highest powered observed disturber noise is ranked second, etc. As such, a corresponding ranking of disturber signals results. The disturber signals chosen for compensation are taken from the ranking (coextensive with the processing constraints that apply).

The line level perspective is then built **620** into the design of the transceiver. First, because the amount of disturber noise that will be removed is understood, the transceiver can estimate its expected improved SNR and determine **606** an appropriate line speed (or data rate) for the line. Second, the disturber equalizer (e.g., disturber equalizers **405**, **505** of FIGS. **4** and **5**) is configured **607** to “undo” the equalization

of the equalizer (e.g., equalizer **402**, **502** of FIGS. **4** and **5**) based upon the parameters that setup the equalizer.

Third, the disturber symbol detector is configured **608** to detect the chosen disturber signals according to the particular type of service that have been identified for each disturber. The co-channel for each disturber signal and the impulse response of the equalizer is also made available to the disturber removal unit. This process is completed before showtime.

For examples of the methodologies and apparatus discussed just above, see co-pending patent applications entitled “Method and Apparatus for Characterization of Disturbers in Communication Systems”, “Method and Apparatus for Mitigation of Disturbers in Communication Systems”, “Design & Architecture of an Impairment Diagnosis System for Use in Communication Systems”, “Method and Apparatus for Impairment Diagnosis in Communication Systems”, “Method and Apparatus for Prediction & Optimization in Impaired Communication Systems” all assigned to the present assignee and filed on an even date herewith.

6.0 Development of Network Perspective

FIG. **7** shows a depiction of event notification flows that may be used to develop a network perspective. Development of a network perspective (and/or any network improvement that results) may be referred to as diagnosis of impairments. Recall from the discussion of FIG. **3b** that a network perspective is an understanding of cross-talk (or other interference) as developed through the correlation of events observed on the lines within a network. The cross-talk understanding may be embodied in the form of a “chart” that identifies: 1) which lines are cross coupled with one another; and 2) for each cross coupling that is identified, how strong the particular cross coupling is.

A networking perspective may be developed by designing intelligence at the line level (e.g., within a CPE transceiver) that sends notification of an event upstream to higher layers of the network (such as the NMA **718**). For example, an event may be designed to correspond to: 1) an observed change in SNR on a line (or a change in bit error rate or other measurement of signal quality); 2) a change in transmitter signal power on a line as demanded or otherwise permitted by the NMA; and/or 3) a change in transmitted bit rate speed for a line as demanded or otherwise permitted by the NMA. The direction of the event notification flow is indicated by the arrow heads seen in FIG. **7**.

In an embodiment, event notifications are sent to and collected by the NMA **718**. The NMA “keeps track of” these events and attempts to correlate them with other network events that the NMA is aware of. For example, if the NMA **718** collects event notifications from lines **720**, **721** and **722** that each has experienced a drop in SNR just after an increase in the service speed on line **724** was allowed, the NMA **718** can assume that line **724** is the source of disturber noise on lines **720**, **721** and **722**.

Furthermore, in light of the amount of SNR reduction that has occurred on each line, the NMA **718** can approximate the strength of the cross coupling that exists between line **724** and each of lines **720**, **721** and **722**. This information may be used, for example, to prevent or limit the extent of further bit rate increases on line **724** (so that proper operation of lines **720**, **721** and **722** is ensured).

When event notifications are sent upstream from a CPE transceiver to a line card, the events are collected at the line card that is responsible for communicating with the line that experiences an event. Thus, for example, if line card **706**

communicates over lines **720**, **721** and **722**, line card **706** collects the events from these lines.

An event notification may be time stamped by a transceiver before it is sent upstream or may be time stamped by the line card that receives the event notification. By comparing the timestamps of the collected event notifications, the line card is able to assume that some events are correlated while other events are not correlated. Specifically, those events that occurred at approximately the same time may be deemed as related to one another (e.g., by a cause/effect relationship). For example, if a drop in SNR occurs at approximately the same time on lines **720**, **721**, **722**, the line card may assume that each of these SNR changes had the same cause.

Each line card **706**, **707**, **708** reports its event notifications (and any correlation it has discovered) to a DSLAM control unit **704**. The DSLAM control unit prioritizes and condenses the event information before sending them further upstream to the NMA **718**. For example, insignificant events (such as a small change in SNR) may be ignored by the DSLAM control unit **704**.

As another example, with respect to DSLAM **702**, consider an instance where each line card **706**, **707**, **708** reports an event that was correlated to each of the line card's lines. If the DSLAM control unit **704** further determines that each of these reports are correlated (e.g., the timestamp of the event reported by each line card **706**, **707**, **708** are approximately the same), the DSLAM control unit **704** may conclude that a "significant" event has occurred that has affected every line coupled to the DSLAM **702**.

The reporting of this event to the NMA may take priority over (i.e., be sent prior to) other events that have already been reported by the line cards but do not correlate to as many lines. Queuing of events at the DSLAM control unit **704** may be employed if the flow of events to be reported exceeds the bandwidth of the communication link between the DSLAM **702** and the NMA **718**. The DSLAM control unit **704** may also be configured to condense the event information (e.g., by coupling multiple events in a single message to the NMA) to enhance the efficiency of upstream event notification flow.

The NMA **718** collects the network events sent by the DSLAMS it has control over. The NMA **718** performs a higher level correlation by correlating events reported by different DSLAMs. For any change in SNR caused by an adjustment in line power or line speed within the DSL network, the NMA **718** will be able to get a full report of the lines affected and build an understanding of the cross-talk that exists in the network. Furthermore, specific verification tests may be executed to see if a particular line change is allowable.

For example, if an existing customer desires to increase the speed of his or her service, the service provider can send a higher speed test signal over the line. Depending on the SNR changes to other lines that are caused by the increase in speed, the service provider may permit or deny the increased service. Furthermore, the service provider may continuously run tests during a network's "quiet time" (e.g., in the early morning when the customer population is mostly asleep). By continually running tests (e.g., adjustments in speed and/or power to one or more lines) and continually collecting the events that follow, the NMA **718** can build upon and improve its understanding of the cross-talk that exists between the lines on its network.

For examples of improving an understanding through continued monitoring and analysis of the lines see patent applications entitled "Design and Architecture of an Impair-

ment Diagnosis System for Use in Communication Systems" and "Method and Apparatus for Impairment Diagnosis in Communication Systems" assigned to the present assignee and filed on an even data herewith.

That is, the aforementioned "chart" (that identifies: 1) which lines are cross coupled with one another; and 2) for each cross coupling that is identified, the strength of the particular cross coupling) is continuously refined and improved as to its accuracy. Note that so far the network perspective has been limited to "in domain" lines. In domain lines are lines that the NMA **718** has control over (in terms of being able to adjust their speed or power) and can receive event notifications from.

The NMA **718** may also be able to build an understanding of "out of domain" disturbers (i.e., disturbers that the NMA **718** does not have control over and does not receive event reports from). For example, if a local AM radio station reduces its transmitted power every day after sunset, those in-domain lines that are cross coupled with the AM radio station will report an increase in SNR every day after sunset. The NMA **718** can therefore add to the "chart" the existence of an AM radio station that affects the lines that indicate cross coupling. Various other processes may also be used to identify at least the presence of disturbers originating from lines that are controlled by other service providers.

Other types of diagnosis and analysis reports may be generated, depending upon the application. For instance, in a DSL application, a report may include the type of activity of all diagnosed out-of-domain and in-domain disturbers and victims that are estimated to be in a given binder. Since twisted pair lines in a binder often terminate in a small geographic area of users, e.g., within several hundred feet, such a report may also provide information regarding services deployed by other carriers in that small geographical area.

7.0 Exchange of Information Between a Line Level Perspective and a Networking Level Perspective

The discussion that follows demonstrates that transferring line perspective information to a network perspective and/or transferring network perspective information to a line perspective may result in the development of a more accurate perspective and/or increased performance by a DSL network as a whole. For example, referring to FIG. **8**, if a description **801** of the disturber sources observed at a line are sent upstream (e.g., to an NMA **818** that also collects event notifications from lines in the network) a number of improvements may be realized.

First, the NMA **718** may develop a more accurate "chart" of lines that are cross coupled. That is, recall that the disturber information gathered during a line perspective development phase (as discussed with respect to FIG. **6**) includes: 1) description of the service that the disturber signal corresponds to; 2) the actual frequency of the disturber signal; and 3) an estimate of the co-channel between the line and the cross coupled line carrying the disturber signal.

By sending such a description of one or more disturbers upstream to the NMA **818**, the NMA **818** can more readily and with more confidence develop its chart. For example, if the NMA **818** believes (as a result of the event reporting described above with respect to FIG. **7**) that a particular line (e.g., line **724** in FIG. **7**) causes disturber noise on particular lines (e.g., lines **720**, **721**, and **722**), this belief may be "confirmed" if the victim lines (e.g., lines **720**, **721**, and **722**) each report identical disturber information that match the configuration of the disturber line (e.g., line **724**).

That is, if line **724** is configured to deliver a 784 kbps PAM-SDSL service and lines **720**, **721** and **722** each send a disturber profile corresponding to a 784 kbps PAM-SDSL service with the same actual frequency, the NMA **818** may establish with a very high degree of confidence that line **724** is cross coupled with lines **720**, **721**, and **722**.

Furthermore, recall that the event reporting scheme discussed above with respect to FIG. 7 allowed the NMA **818** to develop an understanding of the strength of the cross coupling that exists between lines. The accuracy of the coupling strength understanding may be enhanced if the disturber information **801** sent upstream to the NMA **818** also includes a description of a disturber's co-channel. That is, the co-channel provides a thorough description of the cross coupling's dependency on disturber signal frequency. By the event reporting process alone, frequency dependent information is mostly gained by actually changing the operational speed of a line (e.g., via a test signal).

With this collection of information, the network may be better optimized by the service provider. That is, the service provider can predict with improved accuracy the effect that an increase in bit rate or an increase in transmitted power will have on the service provider's other lines. As such, the service provider is more able to correctly allow or deny such increases (if requested by a customer) based upon the actual understood cross coupling that exists among the service provider's lines.

Note that disturber information **801** sent upstream to the NMA may also describe "out-of domain" disturbers. Thus, whereas the event reporting scheme may be limited to realizing only the existence of an "out of domain" disturber, the sending of out of domain disturber information to the NMA **818** allows the NMA **818** to gain a deeper understanding of the out of domain disturber. Specifically, the type of service, the service speed and the co-channel of the out of domain disturber may be understood.

With this information, the NMA may be able to confidently configure networking service arrangements that will not be affected by the out of domain disturber. For example, due to regions of overlapping and non overlapping frequency usage by various DSL services, it is understood that a DMT-ADSL service will interfere (i.e., introduce disruptive disturber noise) with an SDSL service but not with a CAP-ADSL service. As a result, if the NMA **818** gains an understanding from the disturber information **801** (sent from the line perspective) that an out of domain disturber corresponds to a DMT-ADSL service, the NMA **818** may be configured to allow CAP-ADSL service on the victimized lines but not an SDSL service. Similar judgments may be exercised based upon the understood speed of an out of domain disturber and the speed of a desired service or service upgrade that may be offered by the NMA **818**.

Furthermore, depending on the presence or absence of non volatile memory within a CPE, additional DSL network enhancement may be gained if the CPE uses the NMA **818** (or other upstream equipment such as a DSLAM or EMS) as an effective non volatile storage unit. That is, a CPE without non volatile storage will lose its line level understanding if its power is turned off. When the CPE is turned on again, the entire line level understanding will have to be re-developed.

However, if the CPE can use the NMA as its non-volatile storage, it may be able to maintain (and even improve) its line perspective. In particular, after the CPE initially builds its line perspective information, it can forward it to the NMA **818** through an upstream management data channel. In the case of DMT-ADSL, this corresponds to an Embedded Operations Channel (EOC).

The NMA **818** can store this line perspective information for later re-transmission, in addition to using it to improve its own network perspective. When that particular CPE is turned on after being turned off, it can request that its line perspective information be sent back to it from the NMA.

By receiving this information, the CPE does not have to devote computational resources to rebuilding its line perspective. Instead, it can use those resources to further refine its line perspective information (e.g., by collecting more data and focusing even more closely on the specific frequencies of the detected disturbers).

Also, if the NMA **818** notices a change in the disturber profile (i.e., if a significant loss in SNR is reported by various lines), the NMA **818** may request any line to "re-develop" its line level understanding. When the subsequent disturber information **801** gathered from the new line understanding is forwarded to the NMA **818**, the NMA **818** can search for the cause of the change (e.g., such as a newly introduced out of domain disturber).

FIG. 9 relates to another demonstration that transferring line perspective information to a network perspective and/or transferring network perspective information to a line perspective may result in the development of a more accurate perspective and/or increased performance by a DSL network as a whole. In the demonstration of FIG. 9, note that data samples **901** taken from a line are sent upstream to more sophisticated equipment in the network (such as the equipment used to implement the NMA **918**, an EMS or a DSLAM).

Referring back to FIG. 6, recall that the transceiver observed the spectral content on its line in order to develop its understanding of the disturbers that affect the line. In the demonstration of FIG. 9, observed spectral content of the line (i.e., data samples **901**) is forwarded upstream. Upstream equipment may process these data samples with a methodology the same as, similar to or different from the line perspective development methodology **610** outlined in FIG. 6.

That is, because upstream equipment tends to have more powerful computational resources, a more detailed and accurate analysis of the spectral content on the line may be performed (as compared to the analysis performed at the CPE). For example: 1) a wider service specific frequency range may be used; 2) a narrower resolution bandwidth that searches for a disturber peak may be employed; 3) the entire frequency spectrum (rather than just service specific frequency ranges) may be scanned; 4) a more robust algorithm for detecting the particular service type may be used (e.g., an algorithm that scans for the presence of higher frequency harmonics); 5) a more precise co-channel estimation may be developed, etc. The results of any these analyses will take the form of a more accurate disturber description **902** which is then forwarded back to the line's transceiver.

As an alternate cooperative enhancement, note that the NMA's development of a more detailed and accurate analysis of the spectral content of the line may be used to "pinpoint" to the CPE transceiver precisely where important disturbers are to be found. That is, for example, the disturber information **902** directed to the CPE may be used by the CPE to execute its own (i.e., "local") transceiver training and design routines (e.g., as discussed with respect to FIG. 6). Because the NMA has informed the CPE transceiver "where to look", the CPE transceiver can immediately focus upon one or more disturbers, rather than scan a wide frequency range. More efficient use of training time results (e.g., via improved disturber and co-channel models and/or reduced time spent during training the training period).

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Note also that these more advanced disturber descriptions may be made accessible to the NMA, thus at least all of the advantages and improvements discussed above with respect to FIG. 8 may be realized. Furthermore, recall from FIG. 6 that after the line understanding is developed 610 it is built 5 into the design 620 of the transceiver. The more powerful computational resources of the NMA may also be used to calculate more precise design parameters for the disturber equalizer and the disturber symbol detector. The more precise design parameters 904 may be sent back to the CPE 10 transceiver 908 so that they may be integrated into its design.

In particular, the NMA may perform an improved ranking of disturbers, not according to their power, but according to the severity of the impairment that they cause on the 15 victimized line of the CPE. This ranking typically requires much more sophisticated and computationally expensive processing. As a result, a more suitable set of disturbers may be selected for compensation, with a corresponding increase in CPE compensation performance. 20

Additionally, the NMA may employ much more sophisticated algorithms for computing the optimal filter coefficients for the DEQ. Such algorithms may include least-squares or min-max methods that require more memory than is available on a typical CPE processing resource. This 25 optimized DEQ design results in further improvements in CPE computational performance.

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:

collecting, at a transceiver of a customer premise, data 30 samples of a communication network measured from a DSL;

the data samples collected including at least one disturber signal and a co-channel corresponding to the at least one disturber signal; and 35

sending upstream the collection of data samples measured from the DSL.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

correlating the data at the transceiver to develop a line perspective. 40

3. The method of claim 2 wherein:

the sending includes sending at least a portion of the data from the transceiver to a network access management system.

4. The method of claim 3 further comprising: 45

correlating the data from the transceiver with data received at the network access management system from at least one other transceiver to develop a network perspective.

5. The method of claim 4 further comprising: 50

sending information from the network perspective of the network access management system downstream to the transceiver of the customer premise.

6. The method of claim 3 wherein: 55

the portion of the data from the transceiver is first sent to an access multiplexer and then forwarded from the access multiplexer to the network access management system.

7. The method of claim 2 wherein: 60

the sending upstream includes sending the data from the transceiver at the customer premise upstream to an access multiplexer.

8. The method of claim 7 further comprising:

receiving the data from the transceiver at the access multiplexer; and 65

sending at least a portion of the data from the transceiver to a network access management system.

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9. The method of claim 8 further comprising:

correlating the data from the transceiver with data received at the network access management system from at least one other transceiver to develop a network perspective.

10. The method of claim 9 further comprising:

sending information from the network perspective of the network access management system downstream to the transceiver of the customer premise.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein:

the at least one disturber signal is a crosstalk signal.

12. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

correlating the data at the transceiver from a DSL to develop a line perspective that includes a notification of at least one event; 15

reporting the notification of the event upstream from the transceiver to a network access management system.

13. A method comprising:

collecting a notification of at least one event from a transceiver at a line card; 20

reporting the notification of the event from the transceiver to a DSLAM control unit; and

sending the notification from the DSLAM control unit to a network management agent.

14. The method of claim 13 further comprising:

correlating the event with other events at the line card prior to reporting the notification to the DSLAM control unit.

15. The method of claim 13 wherein the notification of the event is time stamped by the transceiver.

16. The method of claim 13 wherein the notification of the event is time stamped by the line card.

17. The method of claim 13 further comprising:

correlating the events with other events reported by other line cards at the DSLAM control unit prior to sending the notification to the network management agent. 35

18. The method of claim 13 further comprising:

prioritizing the events with other events reported by other line cards at the DSLAM control unit prior to sending the notification to the network management agent. 40

19. The method of claim 13 further comprising:

correlating the events with other events reported by other DSLAM control units at the network management agent.

20. The method of claim 13 further comprising:

prioritizing the events with other events reported by other DSLAM control units at the network management agent.

21. The method of claim 13 further comprising:

sending information collected by the network management agent from the DSLAM or other DSLAMs down to the transceiver.

22. The method of claim 13 further comprising:

sending information collected by the network management agent from the DSLAM control unit or other DSLAM control units down to the DSLAM control unit.

23. The method of claim 13 wherein an event is an observed change in a signal-to-noise ratio on a line.

24. The method of claim 13 wherein an event is a change in a bit error rate.

25. The method of claim 13 wherein an event is a change in any measurement of signal quality.

26. The method of claim 13 wherein an event is a change in a transmitter's signal power on a line.

27. The method of claim 13 wherein an event is a change in a transmitted bit rate speed for a line.

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28. A method comprising:
collecting data of a communication network at a transceiver of a customer premise, wherein the data being collected is at least one disturber signal and a co-channel corresponding to the at least one disturber signal;
5 correlating the data at the transceiver to develop a line perspective;
the sending of the data includes sending the data from the transceiver at the customer premise upstream to an access multiplexer;
10 receiving the data from the transceiver at the access multiplexer;

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sending at least a portion of the data from the transceiver to a network access management system;
correlating the data from the transceiver with data received at the network access management system from at least one other transceiver to develop a network perspective; and
sending information from the network perspective of the network access management system downstream to the transceiver of the customer premise.

* * * * *

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 6,978,015 B1
APPLICATION NO. : 09/710,579
DATED : December 20, 2005
INVENTOR(S) : Mark Alan Erickson et al.

Page 1 of 4

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Title page.

Item [56], **References Cited**, OTHER PUBLICATIONS, reads “Alexandra Duel-Hallen et al., IEEE Transactions on Communications, vol. 57, No. 5, May 1989, “Delayed Decision-Feedback Sequence Estimation”, pp. 428-436.” and should read -- Alexandra Duel-Hallen et al., IEEE Transactions on Communications, vol. 37, No. 5, May 1989, “Delayed Decision-Feedback Sequence Estimation”, pp. 428-436. --.

Reads “D. Godard, IEEE Transaction Communications, vol. COM-28, No. 11, Nov. 1980, “Self-Recovery Equalization and Carrier Tracking in Two-Dimensional Data Communication System”, pp. 1867-1875.” and should read -- D. Godard, IEEE Transaction Communications, vol. COM-28, No. 11, Nov. 1980, “Self-Recovering Equalization and Carrier Tracking in Two-Dimensional Data Communication Systems”, pp. 1867-1875. --.

Reads “Lennart Ljung, PTR Prentice Hall Information and System Science Series, “System Identification, Theory for the User”, Second Edition, 1999, pp 70-139, 197-279, 317-360.” and should read -- Lennart Ljung, PTR Prentice Hall Information and System Sciences Series, “System Identification, Theory for the User”, Second Edition, 1999, pp. 70-139, 197-279, 317-360. --.

Reads “Raul A. Cacas et al., Broadcasting & Cable “Current Approaches to Blind Decision Feedback Equalization”, Aug. 1999, pp 1-52.” and should read -- Raul A. Casas et al., Broadcasting & Cable “Current Approaches to Blind Decision Feedback Equalization”, Aug. 1999, pp. 1-52. --.

Reads “John G. Proakis, McGraw Hill Series in Electrical and Computer Engineering, Digital Communications, Third Edition, 1995, pp 267-286.” and should read -- John G. Proakis, McGraw Hill Series in Electrical and Computer Engineering, “Digital Communications”, Third Edition, 1995, pp. 267-286. --.

Reads “Arthur Gelb et al., “The Analytic Sciences Corporation, Applied Optimal Estimation”, 1974, pp 156-179.” and should read -- Arthur Gelb et al., The Analytic Sciences Corporation, “Applied Optimal Estimation”, 1974, pp. 156-179. --.

“Craig Michael Teuscher,” reference, reads “...Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences, Low Power Receiver Design for Portable RF Applications: Design and Implementation of an Adaptive Multiuser Detector for an Indoor, Wideband CDMA Application, Fall 1998, pp 37, 43-52.” and should read -- ...Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences, “Low Power Receiver Design for Portable RF Applications: Design and Implementation of an Adaptive Multiuser Detector for an Indoor, Wideband CDMA Application”, Fall 1998, pp. 37, 43-52. -- .

Reads “K. Sam Shanmugan et al., John Wiley & Sons, “Random Signals, Detection, Estimation and Data Analysis”, pp 341-377.” and should read -- K. Sam Shanmugan et al., John Wiley & Sons, “Random Signals, Detection, Estimation and Data Analysis”, 1988, pp. 341-377. --.

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Page 2 of 4

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

OTHER PUBLICATIONS, (cont'd),

Reads "Harry L. Van Trees, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, "Detection Estimation, and Modulation Theory", 1968, pp 19-163, 239-418." and should read -- Harry L. Van Trees, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, "Detection, Estimation, and Modulation Theory", 1968, pp. 19-163, 239-418. --.

Read "Honig, M.L. et al., "Suppression of Near- and Far-End Crosstalk by Linear-Pre- and Post-Filerting", Selected areas in Communications, IEEE Journal on. Vol. 10 Issue 3, Apr. 1992, pp. 614-629, entire document." and should read -- Honig, M.L. et al., "Suppression of Near- and Far-End Crosstalk by Linear Pre- and Post-Filtering", IEEE Journal on Selected Areas in Communications, Vol. 10, Issue 3, Apr. 1992, pp. 614-629, entire document. --.

Reads "Valenti, Craig F., Bellcore, "Cable Crosstalk Parameters and Models", ANSI Contribution IE1.4/97-302 Technical Subcommittee Working Group Members, Spectral Compatibility, Morristown, NJ 07960, USA, Sep. 22, 1997, pp.8." and should read -- Valenti, Craig F., Bellcore, "Cable Crosstalk Parameters and Models", ANSI Contribution TIE 1.4/97-302 Technical Subcommittee Working Group Members, Spectral Compatibility, Morristown, NJ 07960, USA, Sep. 22, 1997, pp.8. --.

Drawings,

Sheet 4, FIG. 5, Box 507, reads "DISTURBED RECEIVER" and should read -- DISTURBER RECEIVER --.

Sheet 5, FIG. 6, Box 601, reads "DETECTION OF SERVICE TYPE EXISTANCE" and should read -- DETECTION OF SERVICE TYPE EXISTENCE --.

Sheet 5, FIG. 6, Box 604, reads "ALL SERVICE TYPES ANALYZED?" and should read -- ALL SERVICE TYPES ANALYZED? --.

Sheet 5, FIG. 6, Box 620, reads "DESIGN DISTURVER RECEIVER" and should read -- DESIGN DISTURBER RECEIVER --.

Sheet 6, FIG. 8, Box 818, reads "NON VOLATILE STORAGE" and should read -- NON-VOLATILE STORAGE --.

Sheet 7, FIG. 9, Box 918, reads "DETECTION OF SERVICE TYPE EXISTANCE" and should read -- DETECTION OF SERVICE TYPE EXISTENCE --.

Column 10,

Line 14, reads "...network technologies other tha DSL (e.g., reless net-..." and should read -- ...network technologies other than DSL (e.g., wireless net-... --.

Column 13,

Line 5, reads "...this DEQ design is filter coefficients that a yield a filter..." and should read -- ...this DEQ design is filter coefficients that yield a filter... --.

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Page 3 of 4

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Column 15,

Line 8, reads "...existence (or lack thereof of disturber noise resulting from a ...)" and should read -- ...existence (or lack thereof) of disturber noise resulting from a ... --.

Column 16,

Line 2 reads "...based upon the parameters that setup the equalizer." and should read -- ...based upon the parameters that set up the equalizer. --.

Column 17,

Line 43, reads "...DSLAMS it has control over. The NMA 718 performs a..." and should read -- ...DSLAMs it has control over. The NMA 718 performs a... --.

Column 18,

Lines 29-30, read, "...of all diagnosed out-of-domain and in-domain disturbers disturbers and victims that are estimated to be in a given..." and should read -- ...of all diagnosed out-of-domain and in-domain disturbers and victims that are estimated to be in a given --.

Lines 44-45, reads, "...as a whole. For example, referring to FIG. 8, if a description 801 of the disturber sources observed at a line are sent..." and should read -- ...as a whole. For example, referring to FIG. 8, if a description 801 of the disturber sources observed at a line is sent... --.

Line 66, reads, "...each report identical disturber information that match the ..." and should read -- ...each report identical disturber information that matches the ... --.

Column 19,

Line 29, reads, "...NMA may also describe "out-of domain" disturbers. Thus,..." and should read

"...NMA may also describe "out-of-domain" disturbers. Thus,... --.

Line 40, reads, "...due to regions of overlapping and non overlapping frequency..." and should read -- ...due to regions of overlapping and non-overlapping frequency... --.

Line 54, reads, "...non volatile memory within a CPE, additional DSL network..." and should read -- ...non-volatile memory within a CPE, additional DSL network... --.

Lines 57-58, reads, "...an effective non volatile storage unit. That is, a CPE without non volatile storage will lose it's line level understanding if..." and should read -- ...an effective non-volatile storage unit. That is, a CPE without non-volatile storage will lose it's line level understanding if... --.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 6,978,015 B1
APPLICATION NO. : 09/710,579
DATED : December 20, 2005
INVENTOR(S) : Mark Alan Erickson et al.

Page 4 of 4

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Column 20,

Line 51, reads, "...developed, etc. The results of any these analyses will take..." and should read -- ...developed, etc. The results of any of these analyses will take --.

Line 67, reads, "...reduced time spent during training the training period)." and should read -- ...reduced time spent during the training period) --.

Signed and Sealed this

Twenty-seventh Day of June, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light gray dotted background. The signature reads "Jon W. Dudas" in a cursive style.

JON W. DUDAS

Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office